



Immediate Release

Positive Reception for Oral Health Education Paradigm

New school superintendent responds optimistically to state legislation and grassroots initiatives.

Baltimore, Maryland (October 25, 2012). In a gratifying October 11th meeting with The Children's Oral Health Institute, Maryland's new school superintendent, Dr. Lillian Lowery, recognized the Oral Health Education legislation signed by Governor Martin O'Malley in May. Lowery expressed optimism for grassroots initiatives being advanced by The Children's Oral Health Institute, including *Lessons In A Lunch Box*, *Code Red the Oral Health Crisis in Your Classroom* and *15 Tips to Help Prevent the Spread of Flu Germs*. This positive reception for these oral health education paradigms may impact efforts to help struggling learners succeed. Incorporating Oral Health Education into public school curricula could mean the difference in achieving and advancing to the next grade for many children in Title One Schools.

The nonprofit leaders shared data from the 2000 Surgeon General Report, quoting the statistic that 51 million school hours are missed each year secondary to painful tooth decay. The Children's Oral Health Institute's provided some of their own evidenced based research that has been collected since 2008. Data recorded from the surveys corroborate the acknowledgments by educators to the importance of incorporating oral health education in the curriculum. Empowering teachers with these resources could be significant in reducing the diminishing sense of self efficacy children experience when untreated dental disease consumes their daily lives in the classroom and at home.

The new Maryland Superintendent understands that student performance is connected to comprehensive wellness and is committed to enhancing their learning experiences in every corner of the state. The Children's Oral Health Institute is excited about the intersection of ideas discussed during the meeting. Organized dentistry is eager to work with the Maryland State Board of Education. Maryland's Oral Health Education law could set the best practice benchmark for the nation under the visionary leadership of Lowery's administration.

For more information about this press release, The Children's Oral Health Institute and to obtain oral health curriculum resources visit www.mycuhi.org or call 866-508-7400.

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