



Mission Accomplished in Maryland

Oral health education certified as required by state law.

Owings Mills, Maryland (December 18, 2015). The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) submitted the required Oral Health Report to the Governor and General Assembly on December 1st; it was submitted in accordance with the 2012 Senate Bill 867 and House Bill 1024. This Bill requires the MSDE to submit a summary of information reported by the local school systems to the Superintendent during the certification of the state curriculum. Oral health education is now, as required by state law, officially included in the kindergarten through 12th grade health education curriculum and has been appropriately certified throughout Maryland.

The Report Summary states, “The Department of Curriculum, Accountability and Assessment at the MSDE has taken multiple steps to support and facilitate oral health education including disease prevention and dental health promotion in each local school system.” On May 22, 2012, the legislation was formally signed into law and since that time oral health has been a topic of briefings hosted by the MSDE’s Office of Comprehensive Health for health education coordinators in local education.

The Children's Institute (COHI) is proud to have played a leadership role in helping achieve this landmark legislation. In 2011 the nonprofit began teaming up with the Baltimore Teacher’s Union, Maryland’s Office of Oral Health, the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, the Maryland Dental Society, the Maryland State Dental Association, the Maryland Dental Hygienists’ Association, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, the University of Maryland’s Department of Dental Hygiene, the National Dental Association and the Prince George’s County Health Department. This reputable collaboration accomplished the mission to require all Maryland public schools to teach oral health. The COHI, organized dentistry and so many visionary educators and stakeholders throughout the state continue to work together to ensure that improving the oral health status of children and families remains an integral part of health education.

For more information about the how this significant legislation was achieved visit *Pathway to Help Get Oral Health Education Legislation Passed in Your State*© at The Children’s Oral Health Institute website. The required *Oral Health Report* including the certifications from the local school systems can be found at www.mycohi.org.

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Prevention that Empowers Globally!