


# Oral Health Education and Outreach in Wake and Granville North Carolina Title I Schools

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**Background:**

Children from low-income families have higher levels of dental caries and unmet treatment needs. Prevention and treatment programs should be focused on schools that have a high proportion of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program.<sup>1</sup>

 **37-73% of students**  
in the partnering Title I schools were  
considered economically disadvantaged <sup>2</sup>

**Purpose:**

To provide oral hygiene supplies and education to under-resourced children in Wake and Granville County, NC through partnerships with local Title I schools.

**Methods:**

Phase 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal and timeline establishment</li><li>• Key partnership formation</li></ul>
Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outreach (social media + email)</li><li>• Donation collection</li></ul>
Phase 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record of inventory</li><li>• Packaging</li></ul>
Phase 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution of donations</li></ul>
Phase 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education sessions</li></ul>

Dental hygiene students have the power to promote health equity by forming partnerships with local stakeholders and focusing oral health education and supplies toward Title I Schools.



- 1) Clark BJ, Graves RC, Webster DB, Triol CW. Caries and treatment patterns in children related to school lunch program eligibility. Journal of Public Health Dentistry. 1987;47(3):134–8
- 2) U.S. news education [Internet]. [cited 2023Jan4]. Available from: <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/north-carolina/barwell-road-elementary-210991>

**Results:**

Initial goal: 180 oral hygiene bags to 3 schools  
Outcome: 427 oral hygiene bags to 5 schools

Oral Hygiene Supplies Collected and Donated	
Toothbrushes	582
Floss picks	372
Toothpaste	483
Total oral hygiene supplies	1,437
Total oral hygiene bags	427
Total # of Schools	5

**Discussion:**

Key lessons:

- Leveraging partnerships from public + private sector.
- Positive reception of grassroots local efforts to give back to the community.

Obstacles:

- Balancing ratios of donated supplies.
- Theft from donation boxes.

Future Directions:

- Improving sustainability + scope through partnerships with student led organizations.

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