



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

June 2014

Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Health Administrator



Annual Identification of Students without Health Insurance

In May 2008, the Connecticut State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Social Services, requested that school districts establish a systematic approach to identify students who lack health insurance and develop a system to consistently provide families of students identified as lacking health insurance with HUSKY information. This ongoing effort fulfills Section 10-206c of the Connecticut General Statutes' requirement that local school districts identify children who lack health insurance and provide information to their parents about the HUSKY plan. This memo serves as a reminder to school districts of the mandate to annually identify students without health insurance.

Approaches to identifying students who lack health insurance include capturing information from:

- the required health assessment form for students entering school and again in Grades 6 or 7 and 9 or 10; and
- the annual emergency contact forms for all students enrolled in the district.

In addition to these approaches, the individual school district may have other systems in place, such as parent liaisons, school-based health centers and family resource centers that may be critical partners in providing families with HUSKY information. A sample HUSKY form for parents or guardians is located on page 2 of this *Bulletin*.

Questions about the HUSKY plan, enrollment or applications, should be directed to the HUSKY information hotline at 1-877-CT-HUSKY or visit their Web site at www.huskyhealth.com.

If you have questions regarding annual identification of students without health insurance, please contact Stephanie Knutson, School Health Administrator at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.

Full Day Regional Professional Development Opportunities

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 (Election Day!)

The Connecticut State Department of Education's Cadre of Nurse Educators will be providing regional professional development opportunities on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 (Election Day)!

Registration: Complete the *Presentation Criteria Form* located on page 3 of this *Bulletin* and e-mail to Glenda Stuckey at glenda.stuckey@ct.gov.

Cost: \$35.00 per person.

Deadline for registration: September 22, 2014.

Regional Professional Development Opportunities

1. The Orchards at Southington, 34 Hobart St, Southington, CT 06489
 - 8:30 am to 11 a.m. - Implementation of the School Nurse Evaluation
 - 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. - Diabetes Management in Schools
2. Meriden Health Department, 165 Miller Street, Meriden, Connecticut (Second Floor Teen Room)
 - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Medication Administration in the School Environment
 - 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. - Implementation of the School Nurse Evaluation

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided!

Register now! Walk-in registration will not be available at these events.



Does Your Child Have Health Insurance?

Connecticut offers low-cost or free coverage!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Is your child protected by health insurance? If not, your school and the State of Connecticut want to help.

Healthy kids do well in school! Connecticut's HUSKY Health program, for example, pays for doctor visits (including physical exams), prescriptions, emergency care, vision and dental care, mental health care, special health care needs, and more. It's for children under age 19 in families of all incomes. Nearly 300,000 Connecticut children now have their health care covered by the HUSKY Health program.

There are two parts to the HUSKY Health program for children:

- 1) **HUSKY A** (or Medicaid), for children in families with limited incomes. Parents, relative caregivers, and pregnant women may also be eligible.
- 2) **HUSKY B** (or Children's Health Insurance Program) for children in families with higher incomes.

To apply online, please visit www.accesshealthct.com. To apply by phone please call 1-855-805-4325 (TTY: 1-855-789-2428). For general information about HUSKY Health, please visit www.huskyhealth.com. You can apply for HUSKY A or HUSKY B any time of the year.

Access Health CT Enrollment for 2015 begins November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015.

Unless applying for HUSKY for children/families (Medicaid or CHIP), or HUSKY for low-income adults (Medicaid), most Connecticut residents will have to wait until the next open enrollment period (November 15, 2014 – February 15, 2015) to get health care coverage through Access Health CT. However, you may be able to get coverage earlier. If you have a "qualifying life event," you will get a special enrollment period, (which generally last 60 days from the date of the event). During this time, you can enroll in a health insurance plan through Access Health CT.

What is a "Qualifying Life Event"?

Certain life changes, including changes in family size and income, are considered qualifying life events. Examples of qualifying life events include:

- Getting married to someone who is already enrolled
- Having or adopting a child
- Permanently moving to Connecticut from another state
- Having a change in income or household status that affects eligibility for tax credits or cost sharing reductions (for those already enrolled)
- Losing other health coverage – for example, due to a job loss, divorce, loss of eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP, expiration of COBRA coverage, a health plan being decertified, an employer cancelling health coverage for employees or their beneficiaries, or an employer ceasing their contributions toward such coverage. Note that voluntarily quitting other health coverage or being terminated for not paying your premiums is not considered loss of coverage.

For more information visit www.accesshealthct.com or call 1-855-805-4325.

This partnership to inform parents about health insurance options is in accordance with Section 119 of Public Act 07-02, June Special Session. Special thanks to the Connecticut Department of Education, Connecticut Department of Social Services, Access Health CT, Regional Education Service Centers, and all caring school personnel throughout the state as we join with parents to bring health coverage to Connecticut children. (2014)

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Cadre of Nurse Educators
Presentation Criteria/Professional Development Request Form**

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014 (Election Day!)
(E-mail completed form to: glenda.stuckey@ct.gov by September 22,2014)**

Date of Request: _____

Requestor: _____

Job Title: _____

School District: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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Title of Presentation: _____

Time of Presentation: _____

Location of Presentation: _____

Number of Participants: _____

Note:

- Upon receipt of this form, an invoice will be sent to your attention via e-mail only.
- A *Certificate of Attendance* will be issued at the end of the professional development.
- Cadre presentations cost: \$35.00 per person.
- Handouts will be e-mailed to your attention prior to the event. Please print and bring with you to the event.
- If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Knutson at stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.

**STEPHANIE G. KNUTSON, MSN, RN
SCHOOL HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR**

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