



School Connection

Helping kids go to school healthy and ready to learn

Are you ready to start a School Connection project?

Can you answer “Yes” to each of these questions?

- Yes No Your school has a mechanism in place to identify uninsured children (i.e. emergency registration cards).
- Yes No Someone has agreed to serve as Project Leader for the project.
- Yes No There is someone in your community who has agreed to provide application assistance.
- Yes No The application assistor involved has a good relationship with the school community and will take a leadership role in facilitating clear communication to all involved parties.
- Yes No The superintendent of schools is aware of and supports the project.
- Yes No You have the resources (staff & time) available to screen for health insurance status and to refer uninsured children for application assistance.

NH Healthy Kids Overview

Our Mission

New Hampshire Healthy Kids is a private non-profit organization working in partnership with the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Northeast Delta Dental to provide access to low-cost or free health coverage to uninsured children.

Our Challenge

New Hampshire Healthy Kids (NHHK) continues to work at identifying and reducing barriers to enrollment. Barriers may be social, cultural or language based. By working with community partners, NH Healthy Kids can more easily identify and assist these populations.

Our Programs

- **Healthy Kids Gold:** Provides health coverage at no cost to families with children in the lowest income levels.
- **Healthy Kids Silver:** Offers low-cost health coverage to uninsured children and is subsidized by state and federal funds. Premiums of \$32 or \$54 per child are based on family size and income.
- **Healthy Kids Buy-In:** Offers health coverage to families at higher income levels. Premiums are \$205 per child per month. The Healthy Kids Buy-In program receives no state or federal funding.

Eligibility

Children up to the age of 19 can be insured through Healthy Kids. Eligibility varies for each program and is based on family information such as age, residency, citizenship, income and current/recent insurance status.

Benefits

Comprehensive health and dental coverage vary by program but include the following:

- Check-ups
- Immunizations
- Doctor visits
- Hospital services
- Prescription drugs
- Emergency room
- Outpatient services
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing aids
- Mental health visits
- Dental check-ups
- Dental x-rays
- Cleanings
- Fluoride treatment
- Fillings

NH Healthy Kids Income Guidelines

	Healthy Kids Gold Ages 0-18 and Pregnant Women	Healthy Kids Gold Infants Expanded Ages 0-1	Healthy Kids Silver Ages 1-18	Healthy Kids Silver Ages 1-18	*Healthy Kids Buy-In Ages 1-18
Family Premium:	No Monthly Premium	No Monthly Premium	\$32 per child/per month Monthly max \$128 Harvard Pilgrim/ Delta Dental	\$54 per child/per month Monthly max \$162 Harvard Pilgrim/ Delta Dental	\$205 per child/ per month Harvard Pilgrim/ Delta Dental
# of Family Members	Monthly Income up to:	Monthly Income up to:	Monthly Income Between:	Monthly Income Between:	Monthly Income Between:
2	\$2,268	\$3,678	\$2,268 - \$3,065	\$3,066 - \$3,678	\$3,679 - \$4,904
3	\$2,857	\$4,633	\$2,857 - \$3,861	\$3,862 - \$4,633	\$4,634 - \$6,177
4	\$3,446	\$5,588	\$3,446 - \$4,657	\$4,658 - \$5,588	\$5,589 - \$7,450
5	\$4,035	\$6,543	\$4,035 - \$5,453	\$5,454 - \$6,543	\$6,544 - \$8,724

*Income levels subject to change. The Healthy Kids Buy-In program receives no state or federal funds.

NHHK School Connection Overview

What is the NH Healthy Kids School Connection?

The NHHK "School Connection" is a community-led initiative that connects uninsured school-age children with health coverage. Participating schools identify uninsured children and then provide outreach to help the uninsured families apply for coverage through New Hampshire Healthy Kids.

What is NH Healthy Kids?

New Hampshire Healthy Kids (NHHK) is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to provide uninsured children with access to health coverage. The organization works in partnership with the Department of Health & Human Services and hundreds of community partners to identify uninsured children who are eligible for free or low-cost insurance through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. These programs are known as Healthy Kids Gold and Healthy Kids Silver in New Hampshire.

Who Should Be Involved with a School Connection Project?

Support from school administrators is critical to the success of the project. School nurses (and in some cases other school staff) typically work to identify uninsured students. A specially trained, community-based application assistor from the local hospital or community health center works closely with the school staff and helps the uninsured families to complete a Healthy Kids application. When an application assistor is not accessible, a trained volunteer or school staff member may be available to support the school and provide assistance to families.

How Does the NHHK School Connection Work?

Participating schools begin by screening all students for health insurance status. Families with uninsured students are offered help completing an application for Healthy Kids coverage. The Project Leader keeps track of the outcomes and reports the results to our office.

NH Healthy Kids School Connection Process

A Community-Led Initiative

The NHHK School Connection is a “community-led” initiative. This means that the project is organized and driven by community members. NH Healthy Kids supports projects by providing technical assistance, training, and tools. Each project works in conjunction with a regional Field Coordinator who can give advice on designing a project, help problem-solve, and foster community collaboration.

Identifying and Building Partnerships

Prior to starting a School Connection project, communities should establish project partnerships. It is important to make sure that school administration is supportive, and that there is somebody willing to provide application assistance to families. In many cases, an official Application Assistor will provide application assistance for the project. In other cases, a community member such as the local Welfare Director or a volunteer may serve in this role.

Once the partners are identified, the involved partners should determine roles within the project. The following is a list of factors to consider:

- Who will complete the insurance screening?
- Who will make the contacts to families? Will this responsibility be shared?
- Who will provide application assistance?

Identifying Uninsured Children

One of the most critical factors in planning a successful School Connection project is to have a reliable mechanism in place to identify the insurance status of **all** students. Many schools screen for insurance status on emergency cards, enrollment forms, or other required paperwork that parents complete at the beginning of the school year. If your school does not currently screen for health insurance, please talk with your field coordinator about incorporating a screening tool prior to the start of your project.

When determining how to screen for health insurance, it is important to also determine who will complete this task. You have the flexibility to design this element to fit the needs of your community. School staff, volunteers, and application assistants most commonly perform this task. The person who screens does not have to be the person who provides application assistance to families, but it is imperative that this person be able to share information with the application assistor. If screening and application assistance will be performed by different people, it is important to establish a method of referral. This toolkit provides examples of referral forms you can use, or you may choose to customize forms for your project.

Connecting With Families

Many uninsured families are referred to Healthy Kids on a regular basis, but not all of these families apply to the program. Personalized assistance and thorough outreach increase the odds that a family will apply and enroll their children in coverage. The School Connection takes outreach a step further by identifying all uninsured students within a school and providing personalized contacts to families in an effort to connect them with application assistance. Families receive extra support through multiple contact attempts, eligibility screening, and application assistance provided at flexible times and locations.

Projects are free to contact families using whichever method works best for the community. This toolkit includes ready-made letters that you may use if it works best for you to contact families via the mail. Other options include contacting families in person, by phone, or by email.

Sharing Information

Sharing student insurance information between organizations is often necessary during a School Connection project. With the exception of projects carried out solely by the school (the school not only identifies the uninsured children but also provides the application assistance), a definitive agreement for sharing information is critical to the success of the project.

Please note that NH Healthy Kids cannot provide legal advice for your information sharing agreement. We encourage all parties to discuss how information will be shared with appropriate authorities.

For information on the confidentiality policies for schools (FERPA), you may visit: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

Outcomes Form

The Outcomes form is submitted to NH Healthy Kids by the Project Leader. It is designed to illustrate your efforts and help you track your progress in connecting kids with health coverage. This form should be submitted to the NH Healthy Kids office prior to the last day of school.

Student Insurance Status		
	At the beginning of your project	# of Students
A	How many students are enrolled in this school? <i>Equals B+C+D+E</i>	
B	How many have private insurance?	
C	How many are currently enrolled in Healthy Kids?	
D	How many are uninsured?	
E	How many did not provide insurance information?	

The student insurance status section should be completed after you have screened for insurance status. You do not need to adjust this form to account for students who enter or leave your school after the start of your project; rather, this section should simply be an accurate reflection of the information collected during the initial insurance screening.

The Outcomes section illustrates the progress made through your project. It is where you record how many students were referred for application assistance, how many applications were completed as part of the project, and where you account for insured students whose parents initially did not provide insurance information. Recording these three elements throughout the course of the project is an important step in measuring the impact of the project, not only in your community but on a statewide level as well.

Project Outcomes	
How many families did you refer for application assistance?	
How many applications were completed as a result of this project?	
How many students did you discover already had insurance ?	

The last section of the Outcomes form is optional, and only needs to be completed by projects where all of the students became insured as a result of the NHHK School Connection.

Student Insurance Status		
	At the end of your project	# of Students
A	How many students are enrolled in this school? <i>Equals B+C+D+E</i>	
B	How many have private insurance?	
C	How many are currently enrolled in Healthy Kids?	
D	How many are uninsured?	
E	How many did not provide insurance information?	

Project Completion

The goal of the NHHK School Connection is to make sure that uninsured school children are identified and given the opportunity to access affordable health coverage. We ask schools to complete their project by submitting the Outcomes Form to our office by the close of the school year, and encourage schools to continue to participate each coming year (it gets even easier after the first year is complete!). There are two different outcomes for the project.

NHHK School Connection Participant

Schools that complete the project by submitting the Outcomes form will be recognized by NH Healthy Kids. Because we envision a world where all children go to school healthy and ready to learn, we place a very high value on our school partners who participate in this important project.

NHHK School Connection 100% School

In rare situations, a school may have an extraordinary outcome where all students become insured as a result of the project. Schools who achieve full coverage for their students can provide documentation of this to NH Healthy Kids and will be recognized as a 100% School (a school where 100% of the student population is insured). While this is a fantastic outcome, we recognize that it is not possible for all schools to reach 100% enrollment, and we encourage partnering schools to focus project resources on the screening and referral process.



School Connection Participation Form

Please send completed forms to your Field Coordinator

Application Assistor

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Partnering School

Name of School:

of Students:

Address:

Main Contact:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Name of Principal:

SAU:

Name of Superintendent:

Address:

Project Start Date:

Project Leader:

New Hampshire
HEALTHY KIDS
 School Connection
 Outcomes Form

At NH Healthy Kids, we are excited and proud each time a school completes an Education Connection project. In order for NH Healthy Kids to recognize your achievement, we need you to please complete the information below and email the form to your Field Coordinator.

General Information

Date	
Town	
School Name	
School Nurse(s)	
Application Assistor	

Student Insurance Status

	At the beginning of your project	# of Students
A	How many students are enrolled in this school? <i>Equals B+C+D+E</i>	
B	How many have private insurance?	
C	How many are currently enrolled in Healthy Kids?	
D	How many are uninsured?	
E	How many did not provide insurance information?	

Project Outcomes

How many families did you refer for application assistance?	
How many applications were completed as a result of this project?	
How many students did you discover already had insurance ?	

If you believe that all students in your school obtained coverage as a result of your project, please complete the following section:

Student Insurance Status

	At the end of your project	# of Students
A	How many students are enrolled in this school? <i>Equals B+C+D+E</i>	
B	How many have private insurance?	
C	How many are currently enrolled in Healthy Kids?	
D	How many are uninsured?	
E	How many did not provide insurance information?	