

2024



Children's National®

Children's National Hospital

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES REPORT

*Advancing Student Health
and Education Outcomes
as a School-Friendly
Health System*



WELCOME

It is a privilege to introduce you to our 2024 School Health Programs and Initiatives Report that summarizes our current school partnership efforts and future growth areas. As an anchor institution and leading healthcare provider for children in the Washington, D.C., region, our school health programs have served early childhood and K-12 school systems for nearly three decades. We currently lead nearly 50 school-connected programs and initiatives that span efforts from direct clinical care to educational interventions. Our programs reach diverse populations including students, teachers, caregivers and other support professionals. The programs and initiatives currently impact thousands of students in hundreds of schools in the Washington, D.C., region, including our school nursing program in partnership with DC Health, DC public and public charter schools. The school nursing program provides more than 500,000 interactions with students each year through in-person and telehealth services.

We believe that partnering with schools in our local service area will not only improve service delivery to the students receiving care but will help improve health and academic outcomes. We envision Children's National to be a school-friendly health system (SFHS) that is actively working to ensure all children achieve optimal health and reach their full academic potential. Through collaborative efforts with community and national organizations, we led the development of SFHS principles at the system, program and provider level to advance health and education equity for children and families.

We serve as a voice for policy change in pediatric health at the local, state and federal levels. Our advocacy helps policymakers make better decisions in our community. For more than 10 years, the Child Health Advocacy Institute (CHAI) has advanced policy and systems changes to achieve health equity for children through leadership and collaboration. Our pediatric experts have led efforts to revise the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statements on chronic absenteeism and corporal punishment in schools and testified on local legislation including undesigned albuterol access in schools and universal school meals.

We promote workplace diversity, equity and inclusion that leverages our differences to achieve excellence. Our efforts to create a more diverse workforce extend to our school-age youth as we are building pathway programs and job opportunities for future leaders in our community. We serve on advisory boards and partner with our local school districts to host high school interns across our health system with the goal of offering innovative educational experiences and addressing future workforce needs.

We strive to build trusted partnerships and share decision-making with families and schools. We help families advocate for the unique needs of their children and support schools to address community health issues, including asthma, healthy food access and mental health. With gratitude, we appreciate the contributions of our staff, partners and families who are working with us to foster a school-friendly health system. We hope you will join us on our journey to help children thrive.



Michelle Riley-Brown

**Michelle Riley-Brown,
M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E.**

President and Chief
Executive Officer
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Child Health Advocacy Institute at Children’s National would like to extend our appreciation to the many individuals who contributed to this report. To our school health leaders, thank you for your dedication and continued commitment to improving the lives of children. We would also like to thank our funders, school partners and the families we serve – without you, this work would not be possible. The development of this report was led by Alicia Bowyer, Community Education Specialist and Julia DeAngelo, Program Manager of School Strategies with support from Lin Chun-Seeley, Program Lead, Bianca Johnson, Program Coordinator, Danielle Dooley, Medical Director of Community Affairs and Population Health and Desiree de la Torre, Executive Director, Community and Government Affairs. We are grateful to Tonya Vidal Kinlow, Vice President of Community Engagement, Advocacy and Government Affairs for supporting this report and leading our school health advocacy efforts.

Prepared by the Child Health Advocacy
Institute Community Affairs Department

**ChildrensNational.org/
School-Partnerships**

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OUR SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

 = New Program in the Report

 = Offered Through External Partners and Hosted Within Multiple Departments/Programs

SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- ADHD & Learning Differences Program
- Advanced Tools for Organizational Management (ATOM)
- BEING (Building Equity in Graduate Medical Education) Service-Learning Program 
- Cancer and Blood Disorders Center Education Program
- Celiac Disease School Policies and Trainings
- Center for Research and Innovation Student Summer Program 
- CHEER Program – Community Health Education Events & Resources
- Child Health Advocacy Institute Youth Engagement Program
- Children’s National Mobile Medical Program
- Children’s School Services, Inc.
- Alain Colaco Memorial Scholar Program 
- Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health (CARE-H)
- Conway Nursing Pathway Program 
- Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training
- Diabetes Program 
- Discover SCIENCE with Dr. Bear
- District of Columbia School-Based Health Centers
- Early Childhood Innovation Network
- ECHO (Extension of Community Health Outcomes) Autism 
- Healthy Generations 
- HSC Hospital-Based Education Program 
- HSCSN River Terrace After School Program 
- IMPACT DC School-Based Education and Training
- JLABS STEM Career Event Days 
- Joyful Food Market “Meet the Pediatricians”
- KiPOW! (Kid Power)
- Mentored Experience to Expand Opportunities in Research version High school METEOR v. HS)
- Montgomery County Elementary School-Based Health Centers
- My Health GPS Program
- Office of the State Superintendent of Education Career and Technical Education Career Readiness Internships  
- Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Athletic Trainers Program
- Parent Navigators 
- Project Insight 
- Protecting Young Children Training
- Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery & Education Program (SCORE)
- Safe Kids District of Columbia
- School Based Telehealth Access & Resources (STARS) Program 
- School-Based Telehealth Program
- SNL (Shared Nursing Leadership) Advocacy Council –Horton’s Kids 
- Spina Bifida Program 
- STRIVE DC 
- Teen Steps to Success 
- Trauma Informed Care Training
- Unstuck and On Target: Elementary School
- Unstuck and On Target: High School
- Urban Alliance Internships  
- Washington Commanders NFL Play 60 
- Youth Violence Intervention Program 

REGIONAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES METRICS



48 REPORTED SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

28 DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS

45 PROGRAMS SERVING WASHINGTON, D.C.

22 PROGRAMS SERVING MARYLAND

20 PROGRAMS SERVING VIRGINIA

13+ REGIONAL PARTNERS...
Spanning Local Government, Education, Health and Other Community-Based Entities

24+ NATIONAL PARTNERS...
Through Active Participation in the School-Friendly Health Systems Collaborative and National Attendance Data Sharing Learning Collaborative

PROGRAM CATEGORIES



ACADEMIC SUPPORT



CLINICAL CARE



COMMUNITY HEALTH & HEALTH EDUCATION



INJURY PREVENTION



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



SPECIALTY CARE SUPPORT



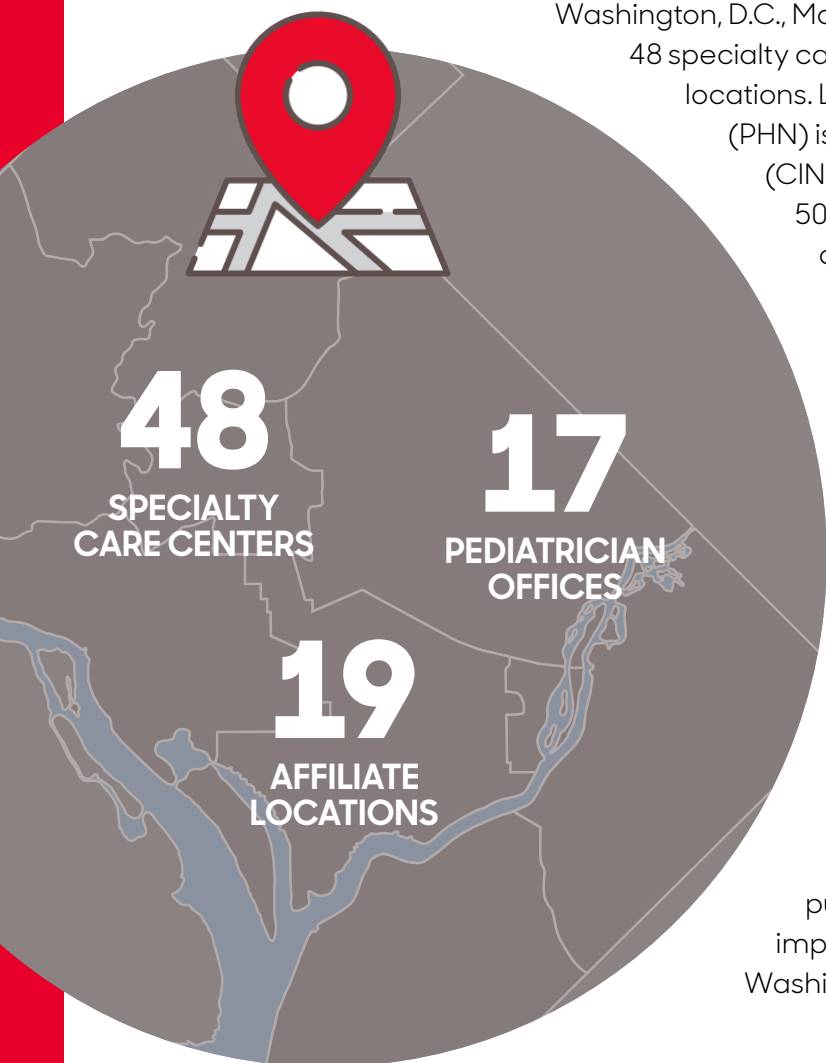
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

ABOUT CHILDREN'S NATIONAL

Children's National Hospital and the HSC Health Care System (HSC), based in Washington, D.C., celebrate more than 150 years of pediatric care, research and commitment to the community. We are a pediatric academic health system that offers the highest quality community-based care in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, including Maryland and Northern Virginia. We are recognized for our expertise and innovation in pediatrics and as a strong voice for children through advocacy at the local, regional and national levels.

Children's National offers many convenient locations for families throughout Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia, including our main hospital, 48 specialty care centers, 17 pediatrician offices and 19 affiliate locations. Launched in 2018, our Pediatric Health Network (PHN) is a physician-led clinically integrated network (CIN) of 600 primary care providers across more than 50 practices that work together to improve patient outcomes in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia while reducing costs. In 2023, Children's National opened a Prince George's County Ambulatory Surgery Center to bring top pediatric surgical care to the county and surrounding areas, decreasing the need for patients to travel into Washington, D.C., for outpatient procedures.

As the nation's children's hospital, our mission is to excel in Care, Advocacy, Research and Education and we engage in school programs and initiatives across these areas to help us achieve our mission. We are advancing a comprehensive system of care for children – with aligned primary care, advocacy, public policy, and community partnerships – that improves outcomes for children and youth across the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region.



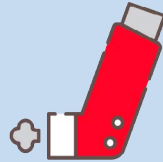
SUPPORT CATEGORIES



Hospital and home-based education programs and educational accommodations throughout a child's treatment and beyond



Mobile health unit providing access to immunizations, well-child visits, vision and hearing screenings



Management of chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and seizures



School-based health services including school nursing, school-based health centers, oral health care and telehealth services



Specialty services including sports medicine clinics, rare diseases and allergies diagnosis and management



Health education on accessing health care and mental health supports, healthy relationships and sexual health, breastfeeding and parenting classes, nutrition and obesity prevention, injury prevention, substance use prevention and many other topics



School health academic supports for children with special needs including Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Celiac Disease and more



Youth engagement programs and internships

BACKGROUND

We recognize that education is a critical social determinant of health. Studies have shown that poor health can put education at risk – children with poor health tend to have higher absenteeism rates and lower academic achievement. Health issues can cause educational setbacks that interfere with schooling. Conversely, education can create opportunities for better health – adults with more education tend to have better jobs, live in healthier neighborhoods and have better access to resources that contribute to better health.

School closures during the COVID-19 pandemic caused educational disruption for millions of students as schools faced unprecedented challenges to rapidly shift to remote learning. Remote learning created inequities in access to education that disproportionately impacted students of color. Estimates show that students of color started the fall 2020 semester approximately 3-5 months behind in learning, compared to 1-3 months for white students.¹ Educational loss was intensified by lack of access to critical services and supports in schools, such as meals, physical education, and school-based health programs. In our local community, we witnessed an increase in chronic absenteeism and truancy², gun violence³ and mental and emotional health concerns among students, particularly Hispanic/Latinx and Black females.⁴ Our region also had a large increase in home schooling at the onset of the pandemic that has largely sustained itself through the 2022-2023 academic year, making it more challenging to reach children with health needs.⁵ As a compounding factor, both the education and health care sectors have struggled with workforce issues including hiring, retention and burnout that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. As students, caregivers, educators and clinicians face the ongoing challenges of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical for the health and education sectors to align efforts to address the needs of children and youth.



1 Dorn, E., Hancock, B., Sarakatsannis, J., & Viruleg, E. *COVID-19 and learning loss – disparities grow and students need help* (December 8, 2020).

Available at <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-learning-loss-disparities-grow-and-students-need-help>

2 In the 2022-23 school year, chronic absenteeism was 43 percent and truancy was 37 percent, a small decline from the previous school year for Washington, DC public students. Available at <https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/2022-23%20OSSE%20Attendance%20Report.pdf>

3 Hopkins, P. *Gun violence is on the rise in D.C.* (February 23, 2023). Available at <https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2023/02/23/gun-violence-increase-dc/>

4 District of Columbia Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report (2021).

Available at <https://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/2021%20Youth%20Risk%20Behavior%20Survey%20Report.pdf>

5 Meckler, L., Jamison, P., Guskin, E., Clement, S. *Home schooling today is less religious and more diverse, poll finds.* (September 23, 2023).

Available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/09/26/home-schooling-vs-public-school-poll>

Our school programming and policy efforts are informed by our changing environment and the needs of our families and schools. For the past five years, we have implemented the **Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health or CARE-H program** that is working closely with schools and caregivers to address chronic absenteeism. Since 2022, we received funding to offer a **Youth Violence Intervention Program** in our Emergency Department to provide children and families with support and offer resources to schools and community connections to build a safer future. As part of our **2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)**, we are elevating early childhood education, healthy food access, health insurance coverage and employment as priorities to address through partnerships with community organizations and government agencies in Washington, D.C., and Prince George’s County, Maryland.⁶

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-2025

FOUR PRIORITY AREAS



1

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



2

HEALTHY FOOD



3

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE



4

EMPLOYMENT RATE

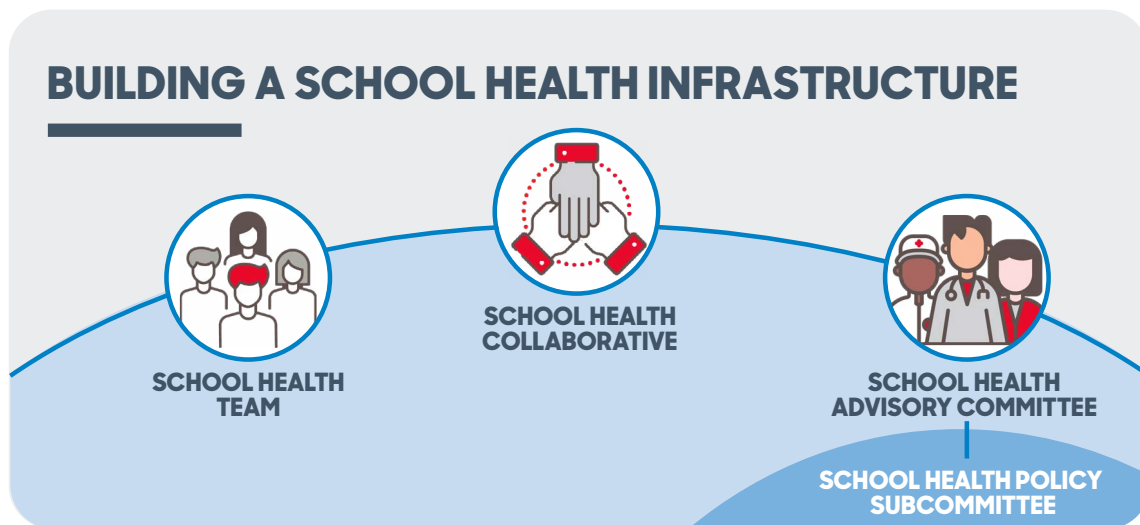


Through launching a Steering Committee and Workgroups for the four priority areas, we are addressing nine strategies to improve opportunity for children living in Wards 7 and 8 in Washington, D.C., and Prince George’s County, Maryland— from advocating for affordable early childhood education centers to implementing new programs that address food security to revising existing practices around employment. In 2023, we launched an **Employment Workgroup** for Children’s National and HSC staff to sustain and expand our hospital youth internship programs and job opportunities to address health care workforce needs.

⁶ Community Health Improvement Plan. Children’s National Hospital and The HSC Health Care System. Washington, D.C., November 2022. Available at childrensnational.org/chi

LEARNING AND LEADING THROUGH SCHOOL HEALTH WORKGROUPS

Children's National leads school-friendly efforts across three areas: the Child Health Advocacy Institute School Health Team, School Health Collaborative and School Health Advisory Committee.



Based in the Community and Population Health Division, the **Child Health Advocacy Institute School Health Team** provides leadership for Children's National school partnerships efforts that are driven by our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and hospital priorities. Our multidisciplinary team has training and expertise in community health, health care administration, pediatric medicine, and public policy. We aim to support student and school wellness through coordination and partnerships between the health and education sectors in three strategic priority areas: Strong Partnerships, Transforming Education and Meaningful Policy and System Change.

REINTRODUCING OUR SCHOOL-FRIENDLY HEALTH SYSTEM (SFHS) FRAMEWORK:

In 2019, the Child Health Advocacy Institute initiated an effort to help hospitals, health systems and clinics become "school-friendly." Our SFHS program supports existing school health frameworks and is built on expert input from physicians, educators, school nurses, parents, health system and school administrators and others at the intersection of health and education. In partnership with our SFHS Learning Collaborative, we rereleased the 5 Core Principles of a SFHS along with case examples in September 2023. Learn more at childrensnational.org/school-friendly.



“ We are continually thinking of innovative ways to enhance and improve the way the health system and care providers across the health system are engaging with schools so that kids can be successful throughout their lives.

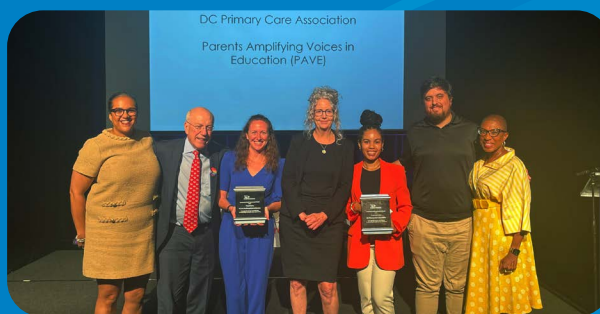
- NATHANIEL BEERS, M.D., M.P.A., F.A.A.P., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AT CHILDREN'S NATIONAL



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For the past six years, the **School Health Collaborative** has engaged more than 150 employees and community partners in learning events and strategic planning sessions that have helped to strengthen existing relationships and build partnerships with schools. In 2022, the School Health Collaborative launched the monthly School Health Connections newsletter, which reaches more than 200 individuals, to connect our health care staff and school partners to current events, trainings and news articles. We are focused on increasing collaboration and coordination by engaging diverse perspectives across the school health field. Invited speakers include our parent navigators and local school district health and wellness leaders to understand how different entities work towards supporting students and families. Through this collaborative, we have also created opportunities for our staff and trainees to engage with schools and school-aged children through community benefit activities.

CONNECTING WITH OUR PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS:



An all-parent governing board, Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE) is dedicated to creating an environment where the vision for education in Washington, D.C., is created with children and families. PAVE contributes to Children's National SFHS efforts and leads an annual parent policy summit in which members of their community health team participate. During the pandemic, we partnered with PAVE to provide our parent community information about the COVID-19 virus and vaccines. In June 2023, we recognized PAVE and the DC Primary Care Association with a Children's National and HSC Community Health Improvement Award in recognition of their leadership in helping Washington, D.C., parents and guardians understand the local education system, build relationships with elected officials and policymakers and lead and organize other families in advocating for policy change.

LEARNING AND LEADING THROUGH SCHOOL HEALTH WORKGROUPS

Since 2021, we have convened a **School Health Advisory Committee** with executive leadership from Dr. Nathaniel Beers, M.D., M.P.A., F.A.A.P., and Tonya Vidal Kinlow, M.P.A., to elevate our school health coordination and strategic efforts to the next level. This multidisciplinary group includes a cross-section of Children's National Hospital leaders who support our diverse school health programs and initiatives including clinical, advocacy, legal, marketing and communications, and information technology systems leaders.

The goals of this committee are to:

- ✓ Advance an advocacy agenda to improve access to health and mental health services in school settings, advocate for more school-based health centers, improve equity in schools around mental health and pediatric asthma care, and support schools beyond COVID-19 recovery; and
- ✓ Identify opportunities to elevate Children's National as a school health leader through partnering with local school districts and other groups that work at the intersection of health and education.

In 2022, Children's National launched a **School Health Policy Subcommittee** to monitor the local and federal policy landscape and use advocacy as a lever to improve student health and academic outcomes in the region and nationally. The School Health Policy Subcommittee developed a policy agenda that is focused on increasing funding and access to early childhood education, addressing access to care and health disparities, supporting social and emotional health and advancing economic support and employment across the region.

2023-2024 SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY AGENDA

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Increase funding for early childhood, mental health support
- Funding for affordable ECE programs
- Increase compensation for ECE employees

ACCESS TO CARE AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Expand access to care through school-based health centers and school nursing programs
- Expand access and eligibility for free school meals including during school breaks
- Increase school support for addressing needs of medically complex students

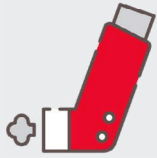
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

- Expand school-based mental health services
- Increase in-service training of school health staff to identify mental health concerns and connect students and families to resources
- Improve information sharing between school personnel and mental health providers

ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND EMPLOYMENT

- Advocate for more school-based resources (childcare, transportation, afterschool programs)
- Expand employment opportunities for special needs and disabled populations
- Advocate for funding to sustain and expand summer employment programs

In the past year, Children's National has advocated for local legislation and provided written guidance to inform national school polices and is committed to expanding relationships regionally to support schools in Maryland and Virginia as well as the District of Columbia.



In the District of Columbia, Children's National worked closely with the DC Council and the Committee on Health to introduce legislation in 2023 mandating undesignated albuterol and undesignated glucagon be available and safely stored at all public and public charter schools. Although all 50 states allow children with asthma to self-carry personal inhalers, access to emergency inhalers is varied and needed in cases of emergency.



Based on the outcomes of our screenings for social resource needs, access to food is a leading challenge faced by our patients and families. Children's National medical providers and a nutritionist provided testimony in support of local legislation to provide universal free school meals and after school snacks to public school, public charter school and participating private school students in the District of Columbia.

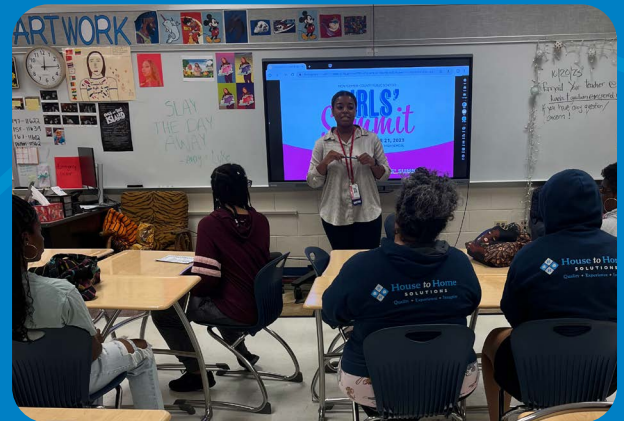


Children's National leaders also contributed to national guidance on chronic absenteeism and corporal punishment in schools. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on School Health released a commentary in October 2023 on the important role that pediatric providers play in supporting their patients' health and education by addressing school attendance.⁷ The updated AAP Policy Statement, Corporal Punishment in Schools, released in the September 2023 issue of *Pediatrics*, provides evidence to support the recommendation that adults should use healthy forms of discipline, such as positive reinforcement of appropriate behaviors, setting limits, redirecting and offering future expectations to children.⁸

7 Schumacher, H., Dooley, D. 2023. Commentary From the Council on School Health: The Link Between School Attendance and Good Health. Available at <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/resources/26573/Commentary-From-the-Council-on-School-Health>

8 Allison, M.A., Beers, N., and Peterson, J.W. 2023. Corporal Punishment in Schools. Available at <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/152/3/e2023063284/193708/Corporal-Punishment-in-Schools>

COMMUNITY BENEFIT ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR SCHOOLS:



The inaugural Girls' Summit hosted by Montgomery County Public Schools presented an open forum for over 900 adolescent girls and their caregivers to discuss mental health, self-esteem and the effects of social media. Children's National fellows from the Department of Adolescent Medicine including Drs. Ana Torga, Alexis Exum, Dara Jackson, clinical dietitian Catherine Slomka and psychologist Dr. Stephanie Merwin spent their Saturday with the students and families presenting educational sessions on topics including healthy eating and recognizing the signs of anxiety and depression.

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

DR. ANDREA BOUDREAUX AND DR. HOPE RHODES: LEADING PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE PLACE-BASED CARE IN SCHOOLS



Andrea J. Boudreaux, Psy.D., M.P.H., M.A., F.A.C.H.E., is the Executive Director of Children’s School Services (CSS). Since joining Children’s National in 2022, Dr. Boudreaux has responded to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school health through dedication, commitment to partnerships and building trust. A psychologist by training, Dr. Boudreaux is driven by expanding the continuum of care for mental and physical health beyond hospital and clinical walls, with the intention that health care should never be a “nice to have.”

Dr. Boudreaux is a champion of public health prevention and school health, recognizing the power and potential of providing students and families with services wherever they are. “There are spaces where we see patients and families. Even if they do not come into primary care clinics, but they do come to school. How can we use the schools as our touchpoint and broaden our continuum of care?” shared Dr. Boudreaux. Dr. Boudreaux believes that primary care and school clinics can help alleviate the burden on the hospitals and are the front door for specialty care.

“ I recall walking into the hospital my first day and it was my first time being in a hospital entirely dedicated to children. The radiologist, the cardiologists, they are all entirely dedicated to children. And I just love the mission of CARE – it is clinical work, but it is also advocacy, research and education, and I truly do believe that all those things play out in the work I do every day, every month. ”

- DR. HOPE RHODES, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.

Hope E. Rhodes, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P., is the Medical Director at Children’s Health Center – Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Dr. Rhodes joined Children’s National in 2006 for her pediatric residency, during which she was part of the Community Health Track (currently known as the Leadership in Advocacy, Under-resourced Communities and Health Equity (LAUnCH) Track). Dr. Rhodes also served as a chief resident.



In 2010, following her residency, Dr. Rhodes continued supporting Children’s National community health efforts through the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health primary care clinics in Southeast, Washington, D.C., reproductive health initiatives and place-based care programs. In 2020, she became the Associate Medical Director of Children’s National–THEARC and the Mobile Medical Program and shortly afterwards in 2021 promoted to Medical Director of Children’s National–THEARC and Mobile Program. Looking to maximize the efficacy of the Mobile Medical Unit during the pandemic, Dr. Rhodes reflected that “When the pandemic hit, we were trying to figure out who else knew what students needed. If students were not accessing care in our primary care clinics, who else knew where the students were and what they needed. It was a natural partnership to connect with Children’s School Services.”

Children's School Services and the Mobile Medical Unit partnership.

In 2021, funding from the United Health Foundation catalyzed the partnership between the Mobile Medical Unit program, the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health primary care clinics, the Child Health Advocacy Institute, and Children's School Services, bringing the services of the Mobile Medical Unit to schools. The resulting program, which involves place-based health resources coordinated with school health needs, started with weekday events focused on immunizations and has since grown to full-day weekend events that include dental and vision screens in partnership with Howard University, scheduling for well-child visits and cardiovascular screenings for children and adults.



In 2022, with additional grant funding from DC Health and continued support from United Health Foundation, the partnership and coordinated leadership between Drs. Boudreaux and Rhodes reshaped the events into A Family Affair: A Community Health Event for the Whole Family. The funds opened the door to weekend events with staff support ranging from nurses to call center representatives. "Staff that would normally not have the opportunity to engage in community health work during their workdays are eagerly signing up to work these events," shared Dr. Boudreaux. The increased staff capacity, full-day weekend availability, incentives including food trucks through a partnership with Breadcoin, and additional screening services transformed the event from roughly 50 patients served in 2019 through the Mobile Medical Unit program overall to more than 600 patients and over 1400 immunizations administered through the Family Affair events in 2022 and again in 2023.

Strong partnerships with the DC public and public charter schools, the city and others such as Howard University, play an integral role in executing these events. Securing permits for the parking lots where the events are hosted, identifying parking for attendees, providing food for families and conducting outreach and communication with families are essential elements of a successful event.

"Just because you bring a resource to the community does not mean that the community is going to use that resource. We need to do our due diligence in building trust, and we do that through our consistency," explained Dr. Rhodes.

Children's National understands that for families, school is often seen as their trusted resource. The partnership with the schools plays an important role in the outreach, advising and communication around these events. Together, the dedication of Dr. Boudreaux and her team to meet the health needs of students through the health suites in DC public and public charter schools, as well as Dr. Rhodes' passion and commitment to ensure that quality care is accessible throughout the community, have bolstered the efforts of Children's National to build trust with our community.

"Schools and families have expressed great gratitude for the collaboration between CSS and the Mobile Medical Program," says Bianca Johnson, L.M.S.W., Program Coordinator. "Providing access to care to students in the community has played a vital role in keeping kids in school."

Supporting attendance is a key component of school and community health. Hosting weekend health events expands the continuum of care to the schools and community and helps children stay in school by providing access to immunizations and other resources. Drs. Rhodes and Boudreaux also partner with the Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health or CARE-H program. Health suites in schools play a vital role in ensuring students receive medication and medical support for various conditions. Similarly, during the 2022-2023 pilot of the CARE-H program, the Mobile Medical Unit responded to schools with higher absenteeism rates to provide on-site resources, eliminating some known barriers to attendance. Both programs hope to see this partnership grow as the CARE-H program has expanded to all DC Public Schools.

"It has been an exciting time with the expansion of the program and that is due to our amazing partnerships," said Jaytoya Manget, N.P., D.N.P., F.N.P., Quality Improvement Lead for CARE-H. *"This is innovative work within schools and clinics, and seeing the impact it makes on attendance and learning loss is really rewarding."*

SPOTLIGHT:

SUPPORTING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THROUGH A DATA-SHARING PARTNERSHIP

Chronic absenteeism or missing 10% or more of school days for excused or unexcused absences, impacts health and educational outcomes for children. The National Academy of Medicine recognized chronic absenteeism as an important vital sign for pediatric health.^{9,10} In 2017, Children's National launched an initiative to support student attendance in partnership with DC Public Schools (DCPS) called the Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health or CARE-H. CARE-H

was developed in response to the nationwide epidemic of chronic absenteeism, which has doubled since the start of the pandemic. In Washington, D.C., rates of chronic absenteeism are close to 45% in DC Public Schools. The CARE-H program aims to support students' health and wellbeing through educating pediatric providers about their role in supporting school attendance and securely sharing school attendance information with pediatric providers.

PROGRAM GOALS:

Children's National, DCPS and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) share the goal of ensuring children are physically and mentally healthy and able to be at school, every day, ready to learn. For many students with acute and chronic mental and physical health conditions as well as those experiencing social inequities, attendance can be a challenge. The CARE-H program started with an original cohort of six schools – four elementary and two middle/high schools – and grew to 14 schools in the second year. For the 2023–2024 school year, the CARE-H program expanded efforts to all 117 DC Public Schools.

HOW IT WORKS:

Parents or guardians give permission to DCPS to securely share attendance information with their child's medical providers for students who are Children's National patients. This information helps these healthcare professionals, including community health workers, provide special outreach and medical attention to children missing school.

9 Johnson, S. B., A. Edwards, T. Cheng, K. J. Kelleher, J. Kaminski, and E. G. Fox. 2023. Vital Signs for Pediatric Health: Chronic Absenteeism. *NAM Perspectives*. Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC. <https://doi.org/10.31478/202306c>.

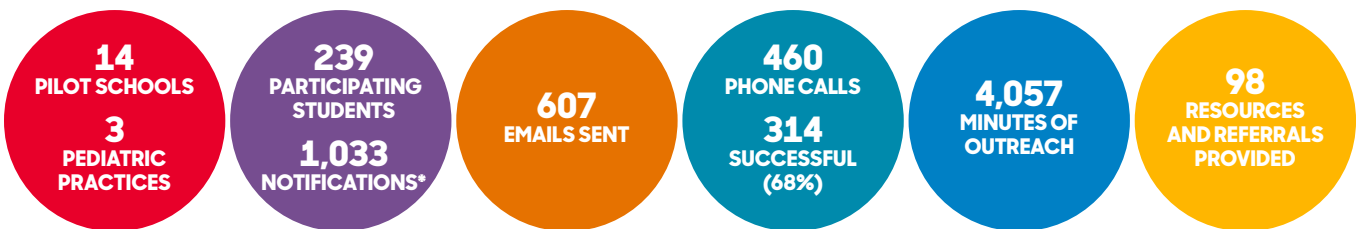
10 Chronic Absence: The Problem. *Attendance Works*. Available at <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/the-problem/>

OUTCOMES TO DATE:

Through funding support from the United Health Foundation, the CARE-H program has provided schools and families with referrals for primary and subspecialty care, mental health care, and social resources. The program also launched a National Attendance Data Sharing Learning Collaborative to share best practices and approaches to cross-sector data-sharing to support student attendance ([see page 26](#) for more information).

CARE-H OUTCOMES

CARE-H BY THE NUMBERS: 2021-2023 FINDINGS



*NOTIFICATIONS TO THE PEDIATRIC PRACTICE:

THE PEDIATRIC PRACTICE IS NOTIFIED MONTHLY AND CONDUCTS OUTREACH USING A TIERED-SYSTEM.

TIER 1: INPATIENT OR ER VISIT; TIER 2: 6+ ABSENCES;
TIER 3A: 4-5 ABSENCES; TIER 3B: 2-3 ABSENCES

ADDITIONAL CARE-H EFFORTS

- ✓ CONVENED AN **ATTENDANCE DATA SHARING LEARNING COLLABORATIVE** WITH >50 MEMBERS FROM 17 ORGANIZATIONS; 12 MEETINGS HELD.
- ✓ DELIVERED **6 LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONIES BEFORE DC COUNCIL** ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HEALTH EDUCATION.
- ✓ PRESENTED AT **6 NATIONAL CONFERENCES** AND HOSTED **11 AWARENESS EVENTS** FOR **300 DC FAMILIES AND SCHOOL STAFF.**

TYPES OF RESOURCES AND REFERRALS PROVIDED

PRIMARY CARE 35%
FOOD 19%
MEDICAL SPECIALTY 12%
MENTAL HEALTH 7%
TRANSPORTATION 6%
EMPLOYMENT 5%
UTILITIES 5%
CONNECTED TO SCHOOL RESOURCES 5%
HOUSING 3%
CONNECTED TO SOCIAL WORKER 2%

PARTNERSHIPS:

In 2022, CARE-H launched a National Attendance Data Sharing Learning Collaborative which engages and supports partners, addresses technical and legal aspects and designs outreach to reduce barriers to school attendance. Finally, CARE-H is grounded in allowing community priorities to serve as the guide, and is a solid starting point for developing trust and buy-in of partners.

SPOTLIGHT:

PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE STUDENT HEALTH AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Across the institution, our school-friendly programs and initiatives support facets of student health and academic achievement through channels such as youth engagement and career pathways, 504 and Individualized Education Program (IEP) coordination, and academic support within our clinical walls for patients.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Our vision for youth engagement is to create opportunities for our youth to become change agents in the community. Our mission is to create educational opportunities for youth to develop advocacy skills, build relationships with Children's National and the HSC Health Care System faculty and staff members, and obtain professional development with hands-on experience.

Our youth engagement programs create equitable opportunities for young people to access a variety of career pathways and occupations, develop advocacy skills, deepen curiosity, gain industry experience and build meaningful relationships with peers and Children's National/HSC faculty and staff. Investment in youth engagement has many benefits, such as providing a platform for youth to speak to the issues that are important to them; promoting skill acquisition among youth researchers; expanding young people's social capital through diverse leadership and civic engagement opportunities; and validating youth knowledge and lived experience.¹¹

We work with partners including the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DC public and public charter schools and Urban Alliance to bring students into Children's National to increase their exposure to careers related to health systems. Areas explored through these opportunities include nursing, laboratory sciences, health equity and advocacy, biomedical science, and administration. These programs enrich students' academic experience and provide skills and exposure to support them in post-secondary endeavors.

11 Anucha, U., Srikanthan, S., & Houwer, R. (2020). Engaging youth in research: Lessons from community-engaged research with urban youth. In S. Todd, & J. Drolet (Eds.), Community Practice and Social Development in Social Work (pp. 1-21). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-1542-8_1-1

OSSE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION NETWORK EXPERIENCES

Since 2019, Children’s National and the HSC Health System have partnered with the OSSE Career and Technical Education (CTE) Network to contextualize career cluster programs such as the Health Sciences Academies in local education agencies. The partnership has included internship opportunities for high school and recent high school graduate students within DCPS and DC public charter schools as part of the OSSE CTE Network Career Readiness Internships (CRI) program and Advanced Industry Placement program. In addition, Children’s National faculty and staff have participated in actively shaping career and technical education practices as part of the OSSE CTE Health Sciences Industry Advisory Board. Current and former Health Sciences Industry Advisory Board Chairs include Dr. Renee Roberts–Turner, D.H.A., M.S.N., R.N., N.E.-B.C., C.P.H.Q., Executive Director, Nursing Quality, and Desiree de la Torre, M.P.H., M.B.A., Executive Director, Community and Government Affairs.

Through the OSSE CTE Network programs, high school students and recent high school graduates in groups ranging from 1–15 students join departments at Children’s National including the Child Health Advocacy Institute, the Center for Translational Research, Guest Services, and Home Health within HSC Health System.

For the past four summers, the Child Health Advocacy Institute and Center for Translational Research have hosted students from OSSE CTE programs in learning programs and internships. The Child Health Advocacy Institute has hosted more than 23 students as part of the OSSE CTE Career Readiness Internship program. As part of their internship experience these students participated in human-centered design and photovoice research projects, developed final projects around community health topics, participated in community volunteering, and received mentorship and exposure around healthcare careers.

METEOR v. 3 program, formerly known as METEOR v. HS, recruits high school students who either participate in the OSSE CTE programs or attend participating partner schools in Prince George’s County, Maryland, to explore translational science laboratories and clinical and behavioral research programs focused on rare and common childhood diseases and disorders. Through a mentored research experience, augmented with an inquiry-based curriculum, career and peer mentoring, college preparation and other experiences, the program intends to engage students to pursue careers in the biomedical sciences. The program is supported by OSSE CTE and is grant funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.



CHILDREN'S NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAMPUS PROGRAMS

"We believe great ideas can come from anywhere and there is no right or wrong path to be an innovator."

**- SHAMIA HOLLOWAY, PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON
CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL/JLABS @ WASHINGTON, DC**

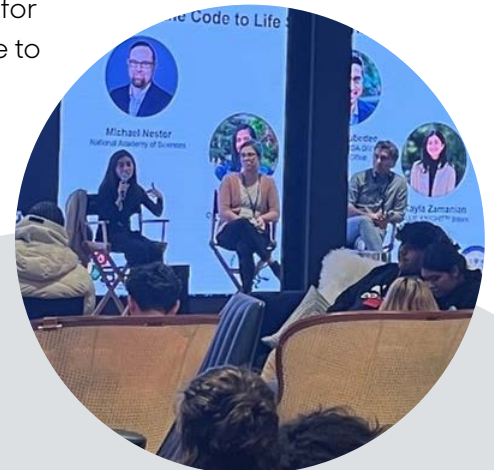
In 2023, the Children's National Research and Innovation Campus hosted events throughout the year for students across the region to explore science, medical research and career opportunities related to health care and life sciences. Notable events included the film screening of Hidden Figures by the Children's National Research Institute, with students from the region in attendance, as part of the larger celebration of Women and Girls in Science Week. Research and Innovation Week similarly provided opportunities to celebrate careers within the health and life sciences and offered activities for students to pique curiosity and learn more about STEM topics.



JLABS @ Washington, DC, is a state-of-the-art life sciences and healthcare incubator at the Children's National Research and Innovation Campus.

JLABS hosted more than 65 students between two events, Children's National Hospital & JLABS Internship Day and the inaugural BARDA STEM Innovator Experience, to learn from the next generation of entrepreneurs tackling some of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges and gain insight into pathways taken by professionals to establish careers in sciences, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. These JLABS events are designed to allow students to meet with resident JLABS companies and industry professionals and engage with them authentically; present students with exposure to pathways available to innovate in healthcare; share the diverse backgrounds of Children's National/JLABS staff

and residents to create a safe space for the students and opportunities for mentorship; and emphasize that STEM is for everyone through exposure to both scientific and non-scientific life science roles. Across both events, the participating JLABS resident companies included Acclinate, Astek Diagnostics, Congruence Medical Solutions, Neuroene Therapeutics, and Polaris Genomics. Many of the company CEOs were women and people of color, highlighting the dedication to supporting diverse innovators.



CARE COORDINATION AND EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Continuity of care and appropriate accommodations within school are essential for supporting our patients in achieving optimal health and academic outcomes. Departments across Children's National partner with schools to ensure that our families are supported to navigate, establish and sustain the appropriate in-school supports, as well as advocate for school health programs and policies that promote and contribute to health and wellbeing.

PARENT NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



Within our Family and Support Services Department, we have a unique team of Parent Navigators that empower families in addressing their child's medical diagnosis and needs within the medical system and education system. The team supports families in accessing services and resources and connecting to educational tools that include education advocacy and Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 development and adherence. As parents of children with disabilities themselves, this team works with our patient families from a place of deep empathy, lived experience and valuable perspective. Parent Navigators work closely with families from the time of diagnosis to provide emotional and educational support and ensure that families are empowered as they navigate caring and advocating for their child.

"Parents are the hub and providers and educators are the spokes of the wheel. I try to encourage parents to prepare, prioritize and engage, which is not always easy, especially when they're overwhelmed. Sometimes, it just takes someone asking how their day is going to energize them because then they don't feel alone."

**- HECTOR RISEMBERG,
PARENT NAVIGATOR**

SPECIALTY CARE SUPPORT



From asthma to autism, diabetes management to sports medicine, our specialty clinics offer specific programs that connect the care that is offered in the clinical setting to care and accommodations offered within school settings. These programs include coordination with schools to establish a care plan for medication administration, dietary plans and instruction, IEP and 504 support for patients and parents, accommodations and in-school tools to support learning and attendance, as well as provide school staff with professional development and education to better understand and meet student needs. Areas of specialty that have dedicated faculty and staff actively working with schools regionally to support our patients and their families include but are not limited to:

- **Academic Skills Support**
- **ADHD**
- **Asthma**
- **Autism**
- **Celiac Disease**
- **Diabetes**
- **Executive Functioning Skills**
- **Learning Differences**
- **Pregnancy and Postpartum Support**
- **Sickle Cell Disease**
- **Spina Bifida**
- **Sports Medicine**

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS CENTER HOSPITAL-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAM

There is a portion of our patient population that may stay at the hospital for extended periods of time. At Children's National, this time does not have to disrupt the normalcy that school-related routine offers and inhibit academic goals and achievement.

"The hospital teacher gave our daughter something to look forward to as well as a sense of normalcy. School is something that our daughter looks forward to and with extended hospital stays, was one of the biggest disruptors to her life. The teacher gave her confidence and joy and we are extremely grateful for that."

- ANONYMOUS, PARENT OF A CHILDREN'S NATIONAL PATIENT



Launched in 2012, the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center Hospital-Based Education Program at Children's National has helped children "go to school" while receiving in-patient care at the hospital. The goal of the program is for patients to maintain a sense of normalcy while they are hospitalized, continue to achieve academic goals, and increase their ability to thrive when they transition back to school. The team, consisting of three part-time education specialists and one part-time hospital-based teacher, provides school planning support, advocacy resources, graduation recognition, college scholarship resources and educational materials for patients and parents. The education specialists also serve as liaisons between families, the medical team and school teams to ensure that appropriate educational support and accommodations are put in place throughout a child's treatment and beyond.

The hospital classroom serves as the central hub for the hospital-based teacher and two volunteer tutors and creates the feeling of being "at school" while in the hospital. Since the fall of 2021, the hospital-based teacher has provided consistent, structured, high-quality instruction, giving children the opportunity to stay on track with their schoolwork despite their unique medical needs and circumstances. During the 2022-2023 school year, the education specialists supported 171 inpatient and outpatient hematology and oncology patients with academic needs. The hospital-based teacher met with 120 unique patients to provide school support, and volunteer tutors provided supplemental academic support or enrichment activities to children ages 2-21.

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN SCHOOL HEALTH INNOVATION

At the national level,
Children's National is a
leader in bringing together
other children's hospitals
and health and education

coalitions that are advancing school
health partnerships and data-sharing initiatives to inform how we
can improve policy and system changes locally and in other states.

Launched in 2022, our School-Friendly Health Systems (SFHS) Learning Collaborative has been led by Children's National and facilitated by RESOLVE, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit specializing in collaborative process design, along with an initial cohort of six other children's hospitals: Children's Hospital of Orange County (Orange, CA), Children's Nebraska (Omaha, NE), Children's Mercy (Kansas City, MO), Children's Wisconsin (Milwaukee, WI), Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati, OH) and St. Luke's Children's Hospital (Boise, ID).



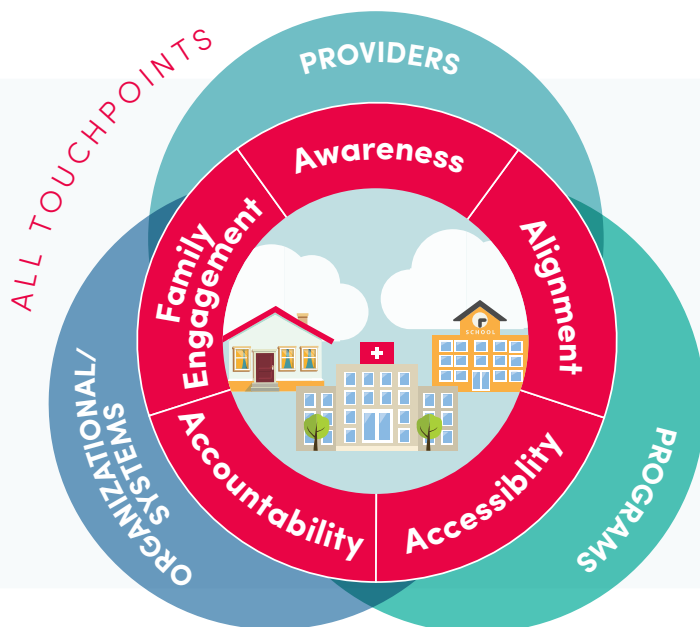
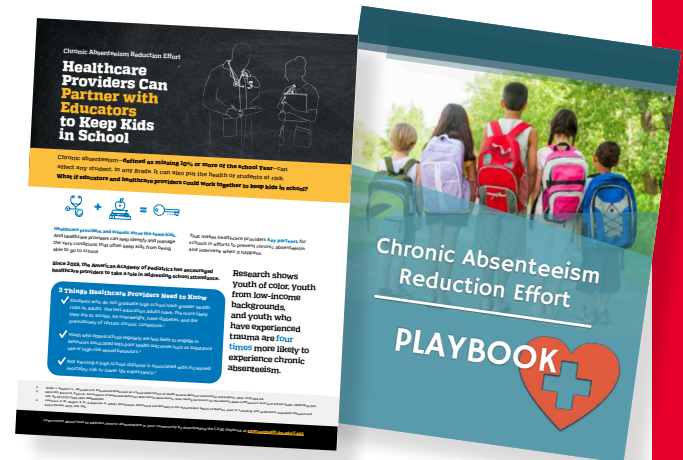
“ We see all five SFHS principles as mutually reinforcing and interrelated. We strongly believe that adopting all five principles within our organization will make us better equipped to meet the educational needs of our community. ”

- MEGAN ELAM AND COURTNEY GILDAY, CENTER FOR SCHOOL SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND MONA MANSOUR, MEDICAL DIRECTOR SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS, CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

The Collaborative has been leading and coordinating school health programs in both urban and rural settings that are making an impact in communities across the nation. Through aligning their efforts with the SFHS framework, members are committed to striving towards equity in process, outcomes and shared leadership with families. In December 2023, the Collaborative launched a monthly Chat and Chew meeting series for members and partners to discuss cross-cutting topics around school health strategies, partners and programs. Looking ahead, the Collaborative is developing an online SFHS toolkit that will provide resources and templates for providers, programs and health systems to implement and evaluate this framework in their community.



The Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health or CARE-H program leaders launched a National Attendance Data Sharing Learning Collaborative in 2022. The Collaborative now has more than 50 members representing 17 hospitals and organizations across the country to share learnings and strategies to exchange data between education and health systems. The Collaborative meets regularly, and the resources produced by the Collaborative are accessible to other hospitals and jurisdictions that want to engage in cross-sector data sharing.



The SFHS framework consists of five principles, each accompanied by practices that help illuminate how a health system can put them into action at all touchpoints.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR VISION TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Children's National is committed to working with and meeting the needs of schools and students across the region while also addressing policy and system changes and making a sustainable impact.



The work that we do with our school health teams is looking at how we better align our engagement with school district partnerships. Children's National and our school districts all share the same constituency, our children and families. We take the work that we do very seriously and know that if we partner together around making sure our kids are in school and ready to learn, we can help to create a pathway for their future success. We acknowledge that in working together, there are opportunities for us to be effective and efficient as a partner with our school district leaders.






- TONYA VIDAL KINLOW, M.P.A.,
VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS




Through collaborations with schools, we will continue to develop and expand school health programs and partnerships to improve health and education outcomes for all children. Over the next several years, we will focus on the following efforts:

- ✔ Host a 2024 School Health Summit to engage with school district leaders and partners to share innovations and engage in opportunities to expand programming and policy change efforts in health and education.
- ✔ Launch a new community service-learning curriculum for pediatric residents that will provide health education in local schools.
- ✔ Develop a “front-door” for accessing school health programs and services requests to make it easier for schools and families to locate information on our website and connect to resources.
- ✔ Elevate and improve the coordination of our school health leaders serving or participating in a community and/or professional organization outside of Children’s National related to school health.
- ✔ Advance youth internships and leadership programs across the institution through our Community Health Improvement Plan Employment Workgroup.
- ✔ Advocate for funding for high quality, affordable early childhood education centers and workforce programs to meet the needs across the region while considering equity.
- ✔ Develop a regional research strategy related to school health to advance the impact of school-based interventions.

To request more information on our school health programs and initiatives, please contact us at SchoolPartnerships@childrensnational.org

APPENDIX: PROGRAMS BY REGIONAL SUPPORT AREA

			
PROGRAM NAME	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	MARYLAND	VIRGINIA
Advanced Tools for Organizational Management (ATOM)	×	×	
ADHD & Learning Differences Program	×	×	
BEING (Building Equity in Graduate Medical Education) Service-Learning Program	×	×	
Cancer and Blood Disorders Center Education Program	×	×	×
Celiac Disease School Policies and Trainings	×	×	×
Center for Research and Innovation Student Summer Program	×		
CHEER Program – Community Health Education Events & Resources	×	×	×
Child Health Advocacy Institute Youth Engagement Program	×		
Children’s School Services, Inc.	×		
Children’s National Mobile Medical Program	×		
Alain Colaco Memorial Scholar Program	×		×
Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health (CARE-H)	×		
Conway Nursing Pathway Program	×		
Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training	×	×	×
Diabetes Program	×	×	×
Discover SCIENCE with Dr. Bear	×	×	×
District of Columbia School-Based Health Centers	×		
Early Childhood Innovation Network	×		
ECHO Autism	×		
Healthy Generations	×		
HSC Hospital-Based Education Program	×	×	×
HSCSN River Terrace After School Program	×		

			
PROGRAM NAME	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	MARYLAND	VIRGINIA
IMPACT DC School-Based Education and Training	✗		
JLABS STEM Career Event Days	✗		
Joyful Food Market "Meet the Pediatricians"	✗		
KiPOW! (Kid Power)	✗		
Mentored Experience To Expand Opportunities in Research version High School (METEOR v. HS)	✗		✗
Montgomery County Elementary School-Based Health Centers		✗	
My Health GPS Program	✗		
Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Career and Technical Education Career Readiness Internships	✗		
Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Athletic Trainers Program	✗	✗	✗
Parent Navigators	✗	✗	✗
Project Insight	✗	✗	✗
Protecting Young Children Training	✗	✗	✗
Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery & Education Program (SCORE)	✗	✗	✗
Safe Kids District of Columbia	✗		
School Based Telehealth Access & Resources (STARS) Program	✗		
School-Based Telehealth Program	✗	✗	
SNL (Shared Nursing Leadership) Advocacy Council - Horton's Kids	✗		
Spina Bifida Program	✗	✗	✗
STRIVE DC	✗		
Teen Steps to Success	✗		
Trauma Informed Care Training	✗	✗	✗
Unstuck and On Target: Elementary School	✗	✗	✗
Unstuck and On Target: High School	✗	✗	✗
Urban Alliance Internships	✗	✗	✗
Washington Commanders NFL Play 60	✗	✗	✗
Youth Violence Intervention Program	✗		

APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

ADHD & Learning Differences Program

Focus Area ▼

Specialized program that provides high quality services for children and families, engaging in innovative activities to improve care for youth with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning differences. The program includes co-creating solutions to improve care, as well as offering professional development trainings and resources to school staff and parents.

Target Population ▼

Elementary–High School Students, School and District Staff/Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Melissa R. Dvorsky, Ph.D.

Director, ADHD & Learning Differences Program
Division of Psychology & Behavioral Health

✉ mdvorsky@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-476-7086

Advanced Tools for Organizational Management (ATOM) and ADHD & Learning Differences Program

Focus Area ▼

Advanced Tools for Organization Management (ATOM) is a school-based program to promote organization and planning skills for School intervention program that supports local schools in evidence-based interventions for supporting students with attention and organization challenges. ATOM uses digital tools to improve students' organizational and time management skills, homework, and overall academic performance.

Target Population ▼

Middle School Students

Program Lead ▼

Melissa R. Dvorsky, Ph.D.

Director, ADHD & Learning Differences Program
Division of Psychology & Behavioral Health

✉ mdvorsky@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-476-7086



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Collaborative for Attendance Resources in Education and Health (CARE-H)

Focus Area ▼

School attendance program and data sharing agreement between Children's National and DC Public Schools with the goal of making school attendance a vital sign in pediatric practice. The program partners with DC Public Schools to receive student attendance data and conduct outreach to students experiencing barriers to attendance.

Target Population ▼

Kindergarten – High School

Program Lead ▼

Danielle Dooley, M.D., M.Phil.

Medical Director of Community Affairs and Population Health

Child Health Advocacy Institute

✉ dgdooley@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-471-4892

ECHO (Extension of Community Health Outcomes) Autism

Focus Area ▼

Virtual telementoring program, which connects community practitioners/educators with a multidisciplinary team of autism specialists. The format involves 60-90 minutes of case presentation with feedback and group discussion, along with a shorter structured didactic on specific content. The program offers free CEs to most disciplines, and virtual ECHO clinic as part of a professional development activity for DCPS school psychologists.

Target Population ▼

School and District Staff/Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Anne Pradella Inge, Ph.D.

Clinical Director

Department of Neuropsychology

✉ ainge@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-476-5000

APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

HSCSN River Terrace After School Program

Focus Area ▼

Grant funded after-school program that provides high quality comprehensive afterschool programming for select schools in DC in the areas of academic support, nutritious supper, and engaging and varied enrichment activities that would not otherwise be offered in their schools. HSCSN specifically provides music therapy one day a week and sports activities twice a week as part of the programming.

Target Population ▼

High School Students, Adult Learners

Program Lead ▼

Marjorie Hernandez

HSCSN Program Coordinator
Marketing and Communications

✉ mhernandez@hschealth.org

Parent Navigators

Focus Area ▼

Family support program that informs, educates, supports and empowers families to be strong partners with providers in advocating for their child's medical, educational and social well-being including creation of and adherence to specialized education plans and care-coordination with schools.

Target Population ▼

Early Childhood Education – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Michelle Jiggetts, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.

Program Administrator
Parent Navigator Program

✉ Pnavigator@childrensnational.org



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Unstuck and On Target

Focus Area ▼

School-based program based on cognitive-behavioral therapy principles that aims to improve executive function flexibility, emotion regulation, planning, goal setting, and self-advocacy in elementary and high school students. The program is delivered by school staff and improves generalization of skills, increases access to mental health care, and fills a gap in evidence-based approaches to support postsecondary transition with a focus on key functions needed for adult success.

Target Population ▼

Elementary Students, High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Lauren Kenworthy, Ph.D.

Pediatric Neuropsychologist and Director
Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders
Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology

✉ lkenwort@childrensnational.org

☎ 301-765-5430

Cara E. Pugliese, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist
Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders
Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology

✉ cpuglies@childrensnational.org

☎ 301-765-5424

APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



CLINICAL CARE

Children's National Mobile Medical Program

Focus Area ▼

Place-based medical services program that meets healthcare needs of the community and treats health-related barriers through partnerships with schools to identify patients and families who might require services.

Target Population ▼

Pre-K – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Hope Rhodes, M.D., M.P.H.

Medical Director

Children's Health Center at THEARC

Goldberg Center for General Pediatrics and Community Health

✉ hrhodes@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-436-3082

Children's School Services, Inc.

Focus Area ▼

School-based program that provides comprehensive student-centered clinical and allied health and nursing services to enrolled DC Public Schools and Public Charter School students.

Target Population ▼

Elementary-High School Students, Nurses

Program Lead ▼

Children's School Services, Inc.

Program Administrator

✉ SchoolServices@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-471-4815



CLINICAL CARE

District of Columbia School-Based Health Centers

Focus Area ▼

School-based comprehensive primary care clinics that provide health services, mental health services, and reproductive health services supporting the overall well-being of the students while at school.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Cara Biddle, M.D., M.P.H.

Principal Investigator
Associate Division Chief
General Pediatrics and Community Health

✉ cbiddle@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-476-2123

Julie Krueger, M.D.

Medical Director
Adolescent and Young Adult
Medicine

✉ jkrueger@childrensnational.org

Michelle Jiggetts, M.D., M.D., M.B.A.

Program Administrator
District of Columbia School-Based Health Centers

✉ mjiggett@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-476-4904

IMPACT DC School-Based Education and Training

Focus Area ▼

Training program on asthma management for early childhood education and preschool providers, and school-based asthma care management for DC schools to reduce absenteeism and improve communication and coordination with school nurses.

Target Population ▼

Pre-K-High School Students, School, and District Staff/Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Shilpa Patel, M.D., M.P.H.

Medical Director
IMPACT DC Asthma Clinic

✉ impactdc@childrensnational.org

☎ 202-476-3870

APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



CLINICAL CARE

Montgomery County Elementary School-Based Health Centers

Focus Area ▼

School-based comprehensive medical health care program for students enrolled in the schools, their uninsured siblings, and care for children living within the school's zip code.

Target Population ▼

Elementary Students

Program Lead ▼

Dinea DeSouza, M.D.

Pediatrician

Children's National Pediatricians & Associates, LLC

✉ Sddesouza@childrensnational.org

☎ 301-926-3633

My Health GPS Program

Focus Area ▼

Medicaid care coordination program for patients with three or more chronic conditions that aims to address unmet care management needs and includes education and support in managing conditions at home and at school.

Target Population ▼

Elementary – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Margie Farrar-Simpson, M.S.N, R.N., P.N.P.-B.C., N.E.-B.C., C.C.M.

Director of Integrated Care Management

✉ MFarrars@ChildrensNational.org

✉ GPSTeam@ChildrensNational.org

☎ 202-476-5138



CLINICAL CARE

School-Based Telehealth Program

Focus Area ▼

School-based telehealth program that provides school nurses access to Children's National providers who help assess next steps in providing care to students. Links students to specialty services and delivers health education to staff, students, and families.

Target Population ▼

Elementary – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Telehealth Department

✉ telemedhelpdesk@childrensnational.org

APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



COMMUNITY HEALTH & HEALTH EDUCATION

BEING (Building Equity in Graduate Medical Education) Service Learning

Focus Area ▼

Service-learning program focused on health education curricula delivered by Children's National pediatric residents at Community-Based Organizations around D.C.

Target Population ▼

Middle-High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Theiline Gborkorquellie, M.D., M.H.S., F.A.A.P.

Assistant Director of Health Equity Education
Pediatric Residency Program

✉ tgorkorq@childrensnational.org

CHEER Program – Community Health Education Events & Resources

Focus Area ▼

Community-based health education programs that include opportunities to participate in health fairs and other educational events at schools and community-based locations.

Target Population ▼

Early Childhood Education – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Melissa Baiyewu, M.H.A., C.H.E.S.

Program Manager
Advocacy and Community Affairs

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COMMUNITY HEALTH & HEALTH EDUCATION

Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training

Focus Area ▼

Training program that helps professionals and individuals, including school and district faculty and staff, to recognize signs of sexual abuse as well as how to respond and help children advocate for themselves.

Target Population ▼

School and District Staff/Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Siobhan Copeland

Child and Adolescent Protection Center

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Joyful Food Market "Meet the Pediatricians"

Focus Area ▼

After-school community-based health education and food market program that provides a space for parents and children to interact with pediatricians on various health topics in Wards 7 and 8 in Washington, D.C..

Target Population ▼

Pre-K-Elementary Students

Program Lead ▼

Leah Newcomer, M.D.

Pediatric Resident

Pediatric Residency Program

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



COMMUNITY HEALTH & HEALTH EDUCATION

KiPOW! (Kid Power)

Focus Area ▼

School-based health collaborative of physicians, medical students, public and public charter school faculty and staff, elementary and middle school students and their families working together to help school nutrition and exercise policies reach goals.

Target Population ▼

Elementary – Middle School Students

Program Lead ▼

Michele Mietus-Snyder, M.D.

Children's National Obesity Institute Co-Director
Center for Translational Science

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Washington Commanders NFL Play60 Initiative

Focus Area ▼

Physical activity program offered by the Washington Commanders with presenting sponsorship from Children's National. Play 60 empowers youth to get physically active for at least 60 minutes per day and encourages a healthy lifestyle. Events include DC Public Schools, HSC's Kids in Action program and patients from Children's National.

Target Population ▼

Elementary School Students

Program Lead ▼

Susan Muma, M.A.

Director, Marketing and Physician Relations, Marketing & Communications

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INJURY PREVENTION

Protecting Young Children Training

Focus Area ▼

Education and training program offered annually to all employees of District of Columbia Child Development Centers and Child Development Home through the Office of the State Superintendent of Education on the normal phases of crying that a baby goes through, also known as the Period of PURPLE crying. Increases awareness of protecting and advocating for children as part of everyone's job through education about child abuse, common trends, and prevention strategies.

Target Population ▼

School and District Staff and Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Cindy Colson

Education Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator

Trauma and Burn Surgery

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☎ 202-476-7754

Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery & Education Program (SCORE)

Focus Area ▼

Care-coordination program for children and adolescents with concussions (known as mild traumatic brain injury or TBI). The program consults with physicians regionally and nationally, as well as scholastic and youth recreational sports programs in which children are vulnerable to injury. Clinicians in the SCORE program have specific expertise in managing academic needs and will work with schools to assure safe and effective return.

Target Population ▼

Kindergarten–High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Gerard Gioia, Ph.D.

Neuropsychologist

Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology

Director, Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



INJURY PREVENTION

Safe Kids District of Columbia

Focus Area ▼

Community-based education program that aims to prevent unintentional childhood injuries. School-related initiatives supported by this program include Bike to School Day and International Walk to School Day. Other evidence-based programs are centered on home, transit, and pedestrian safety.

Target Population ▼

Early Childhood Education – Middle School

Program Lead ▼

Chenille D. Holloman

Program Manager

Division of Emergency Medicine

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☎ 202-292-3230

Youth Violence Intervention Program

Focus Area ▼

Violence intervention program that offers ongoing physical, mental and emotional support beyond the Emergency Department following an injury by an act of violence. The program includes coordination with schools to support educational needs including identifying safe routes to school.

Target Population ▼

Early Childhood Education – High School

Program Lead ▼

Katie Donnelly, M.D., M.P.H.

Emergency Medicine Physician

Pediatric Emergency Medicine

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MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN)

Focus Area ▼

A network of organizations with a mission to ensure all children in DC thrive and reach their fullest potential by taking a science-based and cross-sector approach to strengthening families of young children and the systems which support them. The network works to support resilience and responsive and nurturing adult and child relationships through interventions in early learning centers, pediatric primary care, and other child and family-serving agencies.

Target Population ▼

Early Childhood Education – Kindergarten

Program Lead ▼

Lee Savio Beers, M.D.

Medical Director of Community Health and Advocacy

Child Health Advocacy Institute

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School Based Telehealth Access & Resources (STARS) Program

Focus Area ▼

School-based telehealth program expansion that offers additional specialty services focused on behavioral / mental health. The program provides telepsychiatry with screening tools for mental illness and expert consultations with mental health providers.

Target Population ▼

Elementary–High School

Program Lead ▼

David Call, M.D.

Psychiatrist

Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Trauma Informed Care Training

Focus Area ▼

Training for clinicians, staff, schools and community members on trauma-informed care, adolescent brain development and behavioral/mental health conditions. The program highlights how different populations are impacted by trauma, including intergenerational trauma, racial trauma and differential access to health care.

Target Population ▼

School and District Staff/Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Danielle Dooley, M.D., M.Phil.

Medical Director of Community Affairs and Population Health
Child Health Advocacy Institute

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SPECIALTY CARE SUPPORT

Cancer and Blood Disorders Center Hospital-Based Education Program

Focus Area ▼

Hospital-based learning program with the goal of helping hematology and oncology patients maintain a sense of normalcy while hospitalized, continue to achieve academic goals, and increase their ability to thrive when they transition back to school. The team serves as liaisons between families, the medical team, and patients' school teams to ensure that appropriate educational support and accommodations are put in place.

Target Population ▼

Elementary–High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Meaghan Ervin Tishler

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Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

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Daisy Davis

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Stefanie McAnall Hayes

Education Specialist
Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

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☎ 202-476-2382

Celiac Disease School Policies and Trainings

Focus Area ▼

Care-coordination program that supports families in advocating for their children with celiac disease at school. The School Policies and Trainings Program helps parents explain celiac disease to schools and works to develop individualized education plans for students who have been diagnosed with celiac disease.

Target Population ▼

Pre–K – High School Students, School and District Faculty and Staff

Program Lead ▼

Kate Raber

Program Coordinator, Celiac Disease Program

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☎ 202-476-2637

APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



SPECIALTY CARE SUPPORT

Diabetes Program

Focus Area ▼

Care-coordination program that provides comprehensive Diabetes Medical Management Plans (DMMP) for all students with detailed explanations, assists with 504 plans, and provides support and education for school nursing staff.

Target Population ▼

Pre-K – High School Students, School and District Faculty and Staff

Program Lead ▼

Fran Cogen, M.D., C.D.C.E.S.

Director, Diabetes Services & Washington Nationals Diabetes Care Complex

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☎ 202-476-2121

Healthy Generations Program

Focus Area ▼

Teen-tot* program that strives to provide comprehensive, family-centered healthcare for teen parents and their children. Support provided includes connections to school-based services including the [New Heights Program](#), assistance with on-site daycare, and college programs.

Target Population ▼

Middle-High School Students, Adult Learners

Program Lead ▼

Yael Smiley, M.D.

Pediatrician

Shaw Metro Primary Care

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☎ 202-476-6847



SPECIALTY CARE SUPPORT

HSC Hospital-Based Education Program

Focus Area ▼

Hospital-based program that coordinates schools for inpatients in a Postacute and Skilled Nursing Facility. The program combines home and hospital instruction, provides IEP and 504 support, supports organizing residents to go to school in person from HSC hospitalization, and provides direct instruction to patients ages 2 and older.

Target Population ▼

PreK-High School

Program Lead ▼

Thea Burgess, M.A., M.E.D.

Education Specialist

HSC Healthcare System

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☎ 202-635-6557

Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Athletic Trainers Program

Focus Area ▼

Care-coordination program with local athletic trainers for student athletes that educates athletic trainers on pediatric/adolescent-related issues regarding sports medicine. The program provides training to athletic trainers that focuses on orthopedic and sports medicine concerns and developmental-centered care.

Target Population ▼

School and District Staff/Faculty

Program Lead ▼

Kelley Legge, M.S., A.T.C.

Lead Clinical Athletic Trainer

Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



SPECIALTY CARE SUPPORT

Spina Bifida Program

Focus Area ▼

Offers a care-coordination program for patients with spina bifida and their families by reaching out to schools and early childhood education centers to provide education, advocacy, and support with IEPs and 504 plans.

Target Population ▼

Early Childhood – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Nicole Allentuck

Clinical Program Coordinator

Urology

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☎ 202-476-6355

STRIVE DC (Sickle Cell Disease)

Focus Area ▼

Free-mentoring and advocacy program for teens that are living with sickle cell disease. Teens ages 13-18 years receive help on their homework from local college students, set goals, make new friends, go on field trips and learn from young people and peers living with sickle cell disease.

Target Population ▼

Middle-High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Kepler Jeudy

Program Director

Next Step

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

Center for Research and Innovation Student Summer Program

Focus Area ▼

Career exploration program that allows students the opportunity to shadow a Center for Research and Innovation investigator, attend grand rounds and clinical rounds, and become a member of a research team.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Kerstin Hildebrandt, M.S.H.S.

Vice President Research Administration
Children's National Research Institute

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☎ 202-545-2703

Child Health Advocacy Institute Youth Engagement Program

Focus Area ▼

Creates opportunities for youth to become change agents in their community. The programs are done in partnerships with several schools, universities, and youth-serving organizations. Opportunities include single-day in-person experiences for students to explore the hospital system and summer programs for high school students.

Target Population ▼

Elementary-High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Lin Chun-Seeley, M.S.

Program Lead
Advocacy and Community Affairs

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

Alain Colaco Memorial Scholar Program

Focus Area ▼

Hospital-based career exploration program for students with specific interest in laboratory medicine and chemistry at private high schools in Washington D.C. and Thomas Jefferson High School. Over an 8-week program, students learn about medical laboratory testing, shadow physicians in the fields of pathology and pediatric hematology and participate in research projects.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Cyril Jacquot, M.D., Ph.D.

Program Director
Hematology Laboratory

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☎ 202-476-5588

Conway Nursing Pathway Program

Focus Area ▼

Career exploration and professional development program for current and aspiring nurses. The program supports aspiring nurses in career preparation experiences (such as summer work for high school students), scholarships, a one-on-one nurse mentoring relationship, the opportunity to become a pediatric nurse and a chance to thrive within the profession.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Mourine Evans, M.S., R.N.

Program Director
Department of Nursing Science, Professional Practice, and Quality

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

Discover SCIENCE (a Scientific Creative Innovative Engaging New Cool Experience) with Dr. Bear

Focus Area ▼

Out-of-school STEM exploration program with hands-on, inquiry-based art and science programs that improve the physical, cognitive, and social development of children and their families. Explores and combines STEM with a focus on health issues of concern to the community such as asthma, stress, cardio-metabolic risk, sleep, genetics and genetic diseases, and injury prevention.

Target Population ▼

Pre-K – Middle School Students

Program Lead ▼

Rachel Smilow, M.A.

Program Manager

Center for Translational Research

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JLABS STEM Career Event Days

Focus Area ▼

Career-exploration events offered through JLABS in partnership with various departments and biomedical companies at the Children's National Research and Innovation Campus. Students have an opportunity to gain exposure to various STEM careers and innovative technologies and approaches to biomedicine.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Shamia Holloway

Public Affairs Liaison

Children's National Hospital/JLABS @ Washington, DC

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

METEOR (Mentored Experiences to Expand Opportunities in Research) v. 3 Program

Focus Area ▼

Hospital-based STEM educational program for students from diverse backgrounds focused on understanding the healthy and diseased brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves through a children's health lens. The 8-week summer program provides a comprehensive experience and curriculum designed to stimulate interest and advance knowledge in neuroscience, neurobiology, behavioral health, and related fields.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Rachel Smilow, M.A.

Program Manager

Center for Translational Research

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Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Career and Technical Education, Career Readiness Internships

Focus Area ▼

Six-week long summer internship opportunity for high school students participating in Career and Technical Education track programs at DC Public and Public Charter Schools. Various departments across Children's National act as host employers for groups of up to 10 students each summer.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Horace Robinson

Industry Engagement Manager

Division of Postsecondary & Career Education

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

Project Insight

Focus Area ▼

Youth leadership program for 10th and 11th grade high school students centered on public health and provides an opportunity to learn about disaster preparedness, social drivers of health, and health justice after the COVID-19 pandemic. The 11-week program includes mentorship, ability to engage in research, community service, a stipend, and more.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Darcel T. Jackson, C.P.X.P., L.S.S.G.B.

Manager, Patient and Family Centered Care
Patient Experience and Patient and Family Engagement
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Briyana Chisholm, M.D.

Pediatric Resident
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🌐 Project-insight.org

SNL (Shared Nursing Leadership) Advocacy Council's Horton's Kids

Focus Area ▼

Career exploration program that aims to provide exposure to health sciences professionals and enhance early career development for students in under resourced areas.

Target Population ▼

Middle-High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Tangee Pruitt

Program Lead
Department of Nursing Science, Professional Practice, and Quality
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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PROFILES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIPS

Teen Steps to Success

Focus Area ▼

A co-ed after school group just for teens where they can talk in confidence and get input from trusted adults. Teens learn about topics ranging from health to professional development to young adulthood and receive a stipend for participating.

Target Population ▼

Middle – High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Tasha Savage

Family Service Associate
Children's National -THEARC

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Heidi Colbert, L.I.C.S.W., L.C.S.W.-C.

Social Work Team Lead
Children's National -THEARC

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Urban Alliance Internships

Focus Area ▼

Workforce development programs for high school students that offer paid internships, mentorship, and professional development. Urban Alliance works with departments across Children's National to place host program participants.

Target Population ▼

High School Students

Program Lead ▼

Marcus Thomas

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🌐 www.urbanalliance.org

2024
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Children's National.

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[ChildrensNational.org/School-Partnerships](https://www.ChildrensNational.org/School-Partnerships)