

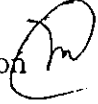


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
School Nurse Supervisors

**FROM:** Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education 

**DATE:** May 23, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Annual Identification of Students without Health Insurance

The purpose of this memo is to provide final guidance regarding the legislative mandate, Section 119 of Public Act 07-2, to identify children who lack health insurance and provide information to their parents about the HUSKY plan.

As Governor M. Jodi Rell acknowledged in her letter dated April 1, 2008, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) also recognize that administrators, school health personnel and teachers are extremely busy with the everyday work on behalf of your students. With this in mind, CSDE has been working with DSS to make implementation of this statutory provision as effective and easy as possible for local school districts.

In the first stage of implementation, CSDE is asking you to take the following measures:

1. **Please duplicate or download the attached form, *Does Your Child Have Health Insurance?***, which has been designed to acquaint parents with the state's HUSKY health care program. The form is available in both English and Spanish. The forms are also posted at <http://www.ct.gov/sde/healthconnections> for future use.
2. **Disseminate the form to parents through your normal distribution channels.**
3. When parents return the signed forms to a teacher, school nurse or school office (indicating they would like consumer information about the HUSKY program), **please ensure that the forms are sent to the following address: HUSKY Program, P.O. Box 280747, East Hartford, CT 06128.** This address is the HUSKY enrollment contractor. Customer service representatives will then take the necessary steps to reach out to responding parents with information about enrolling their children for HUSKY health coverage.

In the second stage of implementation, beginning in the next school year (2008-2009), CSDE is asking you to:

1. Establish a systematic approach to identify students who lack health insurance. This approach may include capturing information from the required health assessment form for students entering school and again in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade and from the annual emergency contact forms for all students enrolled in your district.
2. Develop a system to consistently provide families of students identified as lacking health insurance with HUSKY information. Recommendations include:
  - ♦ Educating your staff about the HUSKY plan;
  - ♦ Contacting families directly either from a designated staff person at the school or through the Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC);
  - ♦ Sending families the attached form mentioned in stage one of the implementation plan and forwarding the forms returned by parents to the HUSKY program; or
  - ♦ Assisting families with the application for HUSKY enrollment. The application can be downloaded at <http://www.healthylusky.com>. If you would like to order a quantity of HUSKY applications, please email [jayne.gary@ct.gov](mailto:jayne.gary@ct.gov).

In addition to the suggestions that CSDE and DSS have provided, your individual school district may have other systems in place, such as parent liaisons, school-based health centers and family resource centers that may be critical partners in this process. For example, priority school districts have received funding from DSS for HUSKY outreach activities and some districts have retained their RESCs to conduct the outreach.

As stated earlier, CSDE and DSS want to place as little burden as possible on you while still meeting the goal of ensuring that parents of uninsured students are aware of and have access to the HUSKY plan.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Cheryl Resha, Ed.D., R.N., at (860) 807-2108 or [cheryl.resha@ct.gov](mailto:cheryl.resha@ct.gov).

MKM:cr

cc: Michael P. Starkowski, Commissioner, Department of Social Services  
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner of Education  
Paul F. Flinter, Chief, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education  
Cheryl Resha, Health Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education

Enclosures



# Does Your Child Have Health Insurance?

*Connecticut's HUSKY Plan offers low-cost or free health care*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Is your child protected by health insurance? If not, your school and the State of Connecticut want to help. Please fill out this form and return it to your child's teacher, school nurse or school office. The school will then contact Connecticut's HUSKY Plan to help connect your student with health insurance coverage.

Healthy kids do well in school! HUSKY pays for doctor visits (including physical exams), prescriptions, emergency care, vision and dental care, mental health care, special health care needs and more. It's for children under age 19 in families of all incomes. Over 230,000 children now have their health care covered by the HUSKY Plan.

**If your child is uninsured and you would like to participate in Connecticut's HUSKY Plan, please fill out and return this form to your child's teacher, school nurse, or school office. Your signature means that the school can provide your contact information to the Connecticut Department of Social Services (administering agency of the HUSKY Plan) or its enrollment contractor so that a HUSKY customer service representative may call you, send you an information kit, and begin the application process to insure your child's health.**

Parent/guardian's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City or town: \_\_\_\_\_, CT Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) and age(s) of uninsured child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number for the HUSKY representative to call you at? (area code first): ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

If you want an information & application kit sent to you, please check here:

**OR: If you want to find out more information on HUSKY right away, call the HUSKY information hotline--1-877-CT-HUSKY (1-877-284-8759). Hours are 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. You can apply by phone or request an information kit.**

**OR: Visit HUSKY at [www.huskyhealth.com](http://www.huskyhealth.com). Check out our colorful website & download the application.**

*This partnership of Connecticut schools and the HUSKY Plan is from the HUSKY enrollment initiative proposed by Governor M. Jodi Rell and approved by the General Assembly in Section 119 of Public Act 07-02, June Special Session. Special thanks to the Connecticut Department of Education, Connecticut Department of Social Services, Regional Education Service Centers, and all caring school personnel throughout the state as we join with parents to bring health coverage to all Connecticut children.*

\* Please return form to school nurse