



# THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

APRIL 2019


Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN  
School Health Administration  
Education Consultant School Nursing and Health



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** School Health Educators  
School Nurses and Nursing Supervisors  
School Counselors  
School Social Workers

**FROM:** John D. Frassinelli, Bureau Chief   
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** October 18, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Connecticut Safe Havens Act for Newborns

In Connecticut, the Safe Havens Act for Newborns, codified in Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, creates a safe alternative to leaving or abandoning unwanted infants in unsafe places. The Act allows a parent to voluntarily give up custody of an infant 30 days or younger and avoid prosecution for abandonment by bringing the infant to one of the state's 37 hospital emergency rooms. The law went into effect in Connecticut in 2000 and has since saved the lives of 37 infants, according to data from the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Connecticut Safe Havens Act statutes can be found at [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_319.htm#sec\\_17a-57](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_319.htm#sec_17a-57).

Section 2 of Public Act 18-182 requires the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE) to provide local and regional boards of education with information on Connecticut's Safe Havens Act and how instructional materials can be obtained from DCF. For the full public act language, please visit <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/act/pa/pdf/2018PA-00182-R00HB-05446-PA.pdf>.

In an effort to save the lives of additional infants, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) encourages districts to provide instruction to students regarding Connecticut's Safe Havens Act as part of the high school curriculum. The slogan from proponents of the legislation supporting this instruction is: "10 Minutes in 10th Grade." Additional details and resources regarding Connecticut's Safe Havens Act for Newborns, including printable materials in English and Spanish and contact information, can be found on the DCF website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/1-DCF/SAFE-HAVENS-Act-for-Newborns>.

Please share this information with school staff and community partners to facilitate the conversation on this important issue. Questions for the CSDE can be directed to Shelby R. Pons, Education Consultant, at 860-807-2103 or [shelby.pons@ct.gov](mailto:shelby.pons@ct.gov).

JDF:er  
cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, CSDE  
Shelby R. Pons, Education Consultant, CSDE

P.O. BOX 2219 | HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06145  
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Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

*presents*

## 2019 Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Registration @ 7:45 a.m.)

Red Lion Hotel, Cromwell

100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

**Presented by:** Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN, Education Consultant, CSDE

This activity will provide school nurses and school nurse supervisors with information and programs that support students. As a result of attending this conference, participants will learn about:

- electronic cigarettes and its impacts on school health;
- updates in epilepsy treatment and management in school environments;
- communication strategies for enhancing professional relationships;
- models of school nurse supervision and LPNs in school health programs;
- learn about the State's immunization database and immunization requirements for 2019 - 20 school year; and
- new legislation and trends in the state.

**Audience:** School nurses, school nurse supervisors, directors of special education/pupil services, school medical advisors, and other school staff

**Cost:** \$125.00 per person (Includes light breakfast and lunch)

Register at:

<https://ctnurses.org/event-3249974>

**Questions:** Please call 203-238-1207 x 1 or email [Virginia@ctnurses.org](mailto:Virginia@ctnurses.org)



Connecticut Nurses' Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation

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## CSDE Homeless Education

Website located at <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Homeless/Homeless-Education>

The Connecticut State Department of Education will ensure that all Connecticut children in homeless situations have the opportunity to attend, enroll in and succeed in school. The federal **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** requires all school districts to ensure access to public education for children and youth experiencing homelessness and ensure success in school once enrolled. This includes:

- Choice of School;
- Comparable Services;
- State or Local Policies Must Not Keep Homeless Children from Attending School; and
- Homeless Children Must Not Be Segregated.

If you are homeless or need help with housing, you are not alone. The best way to get help quickly is to dial 2-1-1 or visit the **2-1-1 website** and click on housing and/or homelessness for programs that help people who need housing or shelter.

Guidance to School Districts:

- National Center for Homeless Education Brief, What School District Administrators Should Know About the Educational Rights of Children and Youth Displaced by Disasters
- National Center for Homeless Education Brief, Meeting the Educational Needs of Students Displaced by Disasters: Youth on Their Own
- School House Connection, Supporting Children and Youth Displaced by Disasters: Five Key Policies

All of the above information is located on the Homeless Education Website located at <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Homeless/Homeless-Education>

## Connecticut's New Definition and Framework for Family Engagement

The CSDE, the Office of Early Childhood and the Connecticut Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, joined with hundreds of stakeholders to co-create a [common definition](#) for advancing family engagement in Connecticut: "Family Engagement is a full, equal, and equitable partnership among families, educators and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career." The framework includes [guiding principles](#) for practice and concrete examples showing how programs can shift their family engagement practices from lower to higher impact.

The [guiding principles](#) are located on the CSDE Website at [https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Full-Equal-and-Equitable-Partnerships-with-Families/Guiding-Principles?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EducateCT%20Newsletter%20-%20April%202019&utm\\_content=EducateCT%20Newsletter%20-%20April%202019](https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Full-Equal-and-Equitable-Partnerships-with-Families/Guiding-Principles?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EducateCT%20Newsletter%20-%20April%202019&utm_content=EducateCT%20Newsletter%20-%20April%202019)

STEPHANIE G. KNUTSON, MSN, RN  
CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
EDUCATION CONSULTANT

Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and  
Adult Education  
450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103

Phone: 860-807-2108  
E-mail: [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov)

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