



Frequently Asked Questions about Data Access for School Health (DASH) Pilot Project:

A Partnership between Colonial School District, Delaware Health Information Network, Nemours Children's Health, and Local Doctors and Nurses To Support Children's Health and Attendance in School

1. What is the DASH project?

At Colonial School District (CSD), we value the health and wellbeing of our students. We know that students who are healthy are better able to come to school and learn. We are pleased to share that CSD is partnering with Nemours Children's Health, Delaware Health Information Network, and local doctors, nurses on a project to support our students' health and attendance in school. This project will start this school year 2021-2022.

Through the pilot project -- which is called the **Data Access for School Health** or **DASH** -- parents or guardians can give permission to CSD to securely share attendance information and if a child has an IEP/504 plan with their child's doctor(s), nurse(s), and medical office staff. This information will help these healthcare professionals to provide special outreach and medical attention to children that might be missing school and their families. This will also provide an opportunity to connect the child and family to the school for educational resources if necessary.

2. I'm a CSD parent. How will this project help my child?

Doctors, nurses, and their staff are able to provide special outreach and medical attention if your child might be missing school. For example, your child's doctor may be able to recommend a new or different medication to help make your child feel better and to better control your child's asthma, allergies, or other condition. The medical care team may also be able to support other common issues for getting to school, such as transportation or child care needs. They may also be able to help start a conversation with your child's school regarding a 504 or IEP plan if your child meets the requirements.

3. Why are CSD and local doctors and nurses interested in making this connection?

CSD and local medical providers share the goal of physically and mentally healthy children who are at school, every day, ready to learn. For many students with medical conditions such as asthma, allergies, sickle cell anemia, and diabetes, this can be harder. CSD and local doctors and nurses are partnering to see if we can better support students' health and wellbeing when doctors and nurses know more about school attendance and 504/IEP plans. Ultimately, we hope this will help students improve their academics.

4. How will information move from the school to a child's doctor?

With parental permission, attendance information will be sent securely from CSD to your child's doctor through the [Delaware Health Information Network \(DHIN\)](#). This is the state organization that today provides secure access to medical data to thousands of local physicians. DHIN has patient lists from many local doctors, and will share data only with the office of the child's listed doctor.

5. Which schools are participating in the pilot?

For the 2021-2022 School Year, this pilot program will be across all CSD schools.

6. How can my family participate?

To participate, please complete the CSD consent form, which is available in the main office of your child's school. Parents can withdraw their consent at any time.

7. Who will have access to my child's information?

Only doctors and nurses who participate in DHIN and identify your child as one of their patients will have access to your child's data.

8. How is data kept safe in DHIN?

Protecting patient information in DHIN is a priority. DHIN follows all state and federal privacy and security laws to protect patient health information. The Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules are the main Federal laws that protect your health information. DHIN considers the privacy and security protections outlined by these laws to be minimum standards, and many of DHIN policies go above and beyond what is really required by law.

All information is transmitted using a secure data transfer tunnel, and is made available in an encrypted e-mail or secure web-portal. In addition, DHIN requires all participating providers to adhere to standards for identity proofing, ensuring that all people who have access to data made available by DHIN are permitted to do so.

9. If we participate in this program, will my child's health information be shared directly with the school?

Maybe, through this project, data will go to medical providers. After speaking with the family if they feel comfortable sharing information with the school nurse, the medical provider will share only necessary information with the school nurse to help the child and family return to school. If the family is not comfortable sharing information with the school, no information will be shared.

10. What other details are helpful for parents to know?

Nearly all pediatricians in DE are signed up to participate with DHIN. However, if your doctor is not, they will not be able to receive the information.

Once a student is signed up, their information will be shared with their doctor(s) or nurses(s) as long as they are enrolled at any of the participating pilot schools. If the child switches doctors, the data will be shared with the new doctor once the doctor's patient list is updated.

11. How often will I need to give this consent?

Your consent will continue through your child's enrollment at CSD, unless you withdraw your consent in writing. You can withdraw your consent at any time.

12. Will the information my school shares become part of my child's medical record?

All data received by your provider from the DHIN that is part of the DASH project, will become a part of the student's/patient's medical record, and will be released with other medical record information, when fulfilling a request for medical records.

13. I have questions about the CARE Project. Whom can I contact??

If you have questions, please speak with your child's school nurse. You can also contact the Jon Cooper, Director, Division of Health and Wellness at jon.cooper@colonial.k12.de.us or 302-323-2700.