



Questions and Answers

During 2020 and into the 2020-2021 school years, many students found themselves learning in remote and hybrid instructional models across the state. Others were able to meet in-person, and, for the 2021-2022 school year, all New Hampshire students have had an in-person instructional model. Many of these in-person instructional models come with a variety of COVID-19 mitigation strategies designed to deter the spread of COVID-19, but also have the effect of disrupting and disquieting student learning progress and themselves contribute to growing concerns around the mental and behavioral health of New Hampshire students.

The preponderance evidence indicates that students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities benefit from exposure to short-term summer enrichment programs, including in the areas of challenge, friend-making, positivity, and emotional safety. Additionally, Psychology Today identified important factors to helping student mental health in its March 19, 2020 article, "Improving Student Mental Health During the COVID-19 Crisis." Two of these factors directly related to this program include the benefits of exercise and appropriate social activity.

For many children, especially those from low-income background or with disabilities, accessing summer enrichment opportunities supporting social, emotional, and mental health is more important than ever.

During the summer of 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on student social, emotional, and mental health, the Department of Education, using federal COVID-19 response funds, offered a program to help pay the youth recreation camp fees of students from low-income households to improve student social, emotional, and mental wellness and support continued development of the whole child, especially by alleviating student anxiety and trauma resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These experiences were designed to help New Hampshire students return to in-person school with a rekindled curiosity, excited and anticipating a return to academic instruction.

As a result of the success of this program during the summer of 2021, the Department of Education will continue the program for the summer 2022, and we are hopeful that many families will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Q. What youth summer programs are eligible to participate in the program?

A. *Eligible youth opportunities include recreation camps, residence camps and seasonal and year-round day camps that are:*

- A list of eligible youth recreation camps may be found by visiting <https://nhcamps.org/for-parents/camps-directory>. Eligible youth recreation camps are:
 - Licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services', Youth Recreation Camp Licensing can be found by visiting <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/cclu/ycp/index.htm>;
 - Operate for at least 10 days per license year for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities;
 - Serve 10 or more youth per day at a place which is continuously or periodically used for such purposes.
- A list of eligible School Age Programs may be found by visiting https://nhpublichealth.force.com/nhccis/NH_ChildCareSearch and searching under Age Group: School Age. Eligible School Age Programs are:
 - Licensed to offer Child Care Programs, a list of which can be found by visiting <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/cclu/programs.htm>;
 - Offer summer recreational opportunities; and
 - Are in good standing with the Child Care Licensing Unit.

Q. What camp fees are covered?

A. *Eligible students and corresponding youth recreation camp fees include:*

- Students with a disability, determined by confirmation of an IEP or medical documentation of a disability, are eligible for a \$650 camp fee;
- Students from families earning less than 250% of the federal poverty level, determined by federal income tax return and documented non-taxable income, are eligible for a \$500 camp fee; and
- Students from families earning less than 400% of the federal poverty level, determined by federal income tax return and documented non-taxable income, are eligible for a \$350 camp fee.

Q. How are kids' applications prioritized?

A. *Eligible students' participation in the program are prioritized on a first-come, first-served basis until all program funds are exhausted.*

Q. Who is overseeing the program?

A. *The contractor ClassWallet will provide administrative support to the Department of Education including:*

- Receiving and reviewing DOE-required documentation to verify student eligibility and corresponding youth recreation camp fees;
- Processing fee payment to New Hampshire-approved youth recreation camps upon a parent/caregiver's selection.

Q. How do I provide confirmation that my student has a disability?

A. *Please have your medical professional complete this Disability Determination Medical Professional Letter located by clicking here:*

<https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/documents/2021-05/disability-determination-medical-professional-letter.pdf>. Please submit this with your application.