



Questions and Answers

As a result of school closures and the need to implement remote and hybrid instructional models across the state, as well as the broader community disruption from the pandemic, there are 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.

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, will 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 will help New Hampshire students return to in-person school with a rekindled curiosity, excited and anticipating a return to academic instruction in the fall.

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 programs must camps provide to qualify?

- A. *Camps will be determined to be eligible youth recreation camps if they complete a contract with the Department of Education that they will provide eligible students with:*
- Access to camp programming, including necessary supplies and materials;
 - Transportation to and from the program; and
 - Provision of Meals/Snacks while attending the program.

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 will be prioritized as follows:*
- Students with a documented disability and students from families earning less than 250% of the federal poverty can participate in the summer enrichment program on a first-come, first-served basis until 75% of the program allocation (\$2.25 million) is drawn down or 30 days after the application period, whichever comes first.
 - At that point, students from families earning less than 400% of the federal poverty are also eligible on a first-come, first-served basis until the entire program allocation is drawn down.

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;
 - Collecting DOE assurances/contracts from New Hampshire-approved eligible youth recreation camps; and
 - Processing fee payment to New Hampshire-approved youth recreation camps upon a parent/caregiver's selection.