Welcome to

NESNC 2027

New England School Nurse Conference — 2027 —



Hosted by *Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association (RICSNA)*

REST

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STAY THE COURSE - ANCHORED IN HOPE
RHODE ISLAND 2027

Agenda

*Agenda is subject to change

Friday April 30th

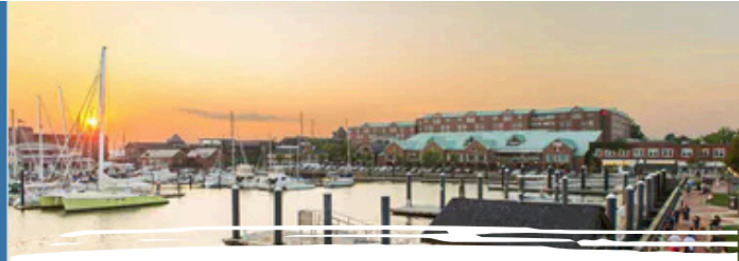
6-8 pm Registration & Welcome Reception with Passed Hor D'oeuvres
8 pm Self Care & Explore Newport

Saturday, May 1st

6-6:45 am Morning Zumba
7-8 am Registration, Raffle Baskets & Breakfast Buffet
8-8:15 am Welcome & Introductions
8:15-10:30 am Keynote Speaker I
10:45-12 pm Breakout I
12-1:15pm Lunch/Vendors/ Raffle Baskets
1:15-2:45pm General Session
2:45-3:05 Vendors/Raffle Baskets
3:05-4:20 Breakout II
4:20-4:30 Raffle/House Keeping

Sunday, May 2nd

6-6:45 am Morning Yoga
7:30-8 am Raffle Baskets & Breakfast Buffet
8:00-8:45 am Announcements & NH Conference Presentation (Host 2028)
8:45-10:15 am General Session I
10:15-10:30 am Break
10:30- 12 pm General Session II
12 pm Closing Remarks



Registration Information

Early Bird Rates

Nov. 2 - Dec. 31
Saturday Only $210
Friday-Sunday $300

Regular Registration

Jan. 1 - Feb 28
Saturday Only $250
Friday - Sunday $360

Late Registration

March 1 - April 9
Saturday Only $290
Friday - Sunday $420

Click Here to Register Online!

Registration will open November 2, 2026 and will close on April 9, 2027 at Midnight. All registrations are final. There are no refunds. There is absolutely NO day-of registration. If you are unable to attend after registering, you may transfer your spot to another school nurse. Please send an email to RIschoolnurse@gmail.com with the name of the person replacing you at the conference. Registration will be through the Nursing Network Website. Payment by VISA, Mastercard, or Discover Credit Cards ONLY. AMEX, Checks, and POs are not accepted forms of payment.

Kathryn Goetzke

Anchored in Hope: The Science and Skills to Build Healthier Schools



Kathryn Goetzke is a global leader in Hope Science and Founder & CEU of The Shine Hope Company & iFred, the International Foundation of Research and Education on Hope. She has spent over 15 years developing evidence-based programs that teach Hope as a measurable and teachable skill across schools, work places, and communities. Her programs, including, Hopeful Minds have been recognized internationally, including by the World Bank. Kathryn has spoken at the United Nations and around the world on the role of Hope and mental health, suicide prevention, and public health. She is the author of *The Biggest Little Book On Hope* and leads a global International Day of Hope initiative.



Tena Brown

The RENEW Workshop

Tena Brown is an empathy educator, patient advocate, inspirational speaker, and CeraVe Brand Ambassador. For more than 20 years, she has worked with healthcare professionals to promote empathy, compassion, and meaningful patient connections. Through her work with CeraVe, Tena supports nurses and healthcare teams through education, advocacy, and programs focused on compassion, well-being, and the patient experience.

David Geyer, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC



Anchored in Hope: Leading the Way for Students with Medical Complexity

Dr. David Geyer is a pediatric home health nurse, pediatric primary care nurse practitioner, and assistant professor at the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing. He received his Master's and his PhD from the Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing and maintains an active program of research examining the systemic challenges encountered by parental caregivers of children with medical complexity and how these challenges relate to parental caregiver burnout. Dr. Geyer is passionate about improving our society's understanding of who children with medical complexity are and the lived experiences of these children and their families. He has given talks locally, nationally, and internationally to students, healthcare providers, educators, and community members to increase awareness of how we can all advocate for equitable and high-quality care for these families.



Elizabeth S Jacobs, MD

Ready, Set, Shock: Preparing Schools for Cardiac Emergencies

Elizabeth S. Jacobs, MD, is a Professor of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and an attending physician in the Pediatric Emergency Department at Hasbro Children's Hospital. She completed her pediatric residency at Brown University/Hasbro Children's Hospital, and fellowship training in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Children's National Medical Center.

Dr. Jacobs has a longstanding interest in pediatric emergency preparedness, resuscitation education, and improving cardiac-arrest readiness in schools. She leads HeartSAFE Schools Rhode Island, an affiliate of Project ADAM, which works with schools to strengthen emergency response planning, CPR training, and access to automated external defibrillators so that school communities are prepared to respond effectively to sudden cardiac arrest.

Breakout Session I

- **Igniting Leadership: Turning Passion into Purpose**
- **504 AND Beyond: From Legal Understanding to Confident Case Management**
- **Supporting Children with Medical Complexity at School and Beyond, Part 1: The Big Picture**
- **Sepsis in Children and Youth: What School Nurses Need to Know**

Breakout Session II

- **Navigating Nurse Liability: A Data-Informed Approach to Mitigate Risk and Improve Patient Safety**
- **Shoring Up Your School Nursing Practice: Navigating Challenges and Steering Toward Positive Outcomes**
- **Supporting Children with Medical Complexity at School and Beyond, Part 2: Clinical Pearls for Common Medical Equipment**
- **Overdose Response and the Unregulated Drug Supply**
- **Supporting Students After Gun Violence: A School Nurse's Role in Communication, Care Coordination, and Healing**

Conference Objectives

- Strengthen evidence-based school nursing using current research and national standards.
- Integrate ethical, culturally responsive practices into all aspects of care.
- Improve coordinateion of student-centered care through collaboration and planning.
- Empower school nurses to lead, advocate, and influence health equity.
- Use data to evaluate programs and improve student health needs and equity as well as explore how hope can be cultivated, taught, and measured as a professional resource.
- Build community partnerships to address public health needs and equity.



Be sure to click on the hyperlinks on this page for important conference information, helpful resources, and all the details you need to make your conference experience amazing!

To learn about:

Keynote and Breakout Session Descriptions:
Click Here

Well-deserved self care with our exclusive spa deals:
Click Here

First time visiting Newport? Don't miss out on these recommended local amenities:
Click Here

Conference Registration

LINK TO REGISTRATION

Hotel Reservations

Newport Marriott Hotel & Spa
(Conference Host Hotel)
Room Reservation Link

Wyndham Newport Hotel
Room Reservation Link

Conference T-Shirts

Provided to All Attendees
State-Specific Colors



Merchandise For Sale

Pre-Order at Registration
Merchandise PDF Linked Here



Thank You

New England School Nurse Conference Committee Members

Becca McCray (VT)
Mary Dunsmore (VT)

Pamela Neleber (CT)
Paula Feryerharm (CT)

Roselaine Charleucien-Koech (MA)
Jennifer Silva (MA)

Liz Carroll (ME)
Amy Dark (ME)

Meg Jenkins (NH)
Paula MacKinnon (NH)

Samantha Paquette (RI)
Christina McLeod (RI)
Hannah Homsi (RI)

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RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

New England School Nurse Conference

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