



HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.

PROVIDER FAQ

What is Healthy Learners?

Healthy Learners is a nonprofit ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Our mission is to remove children's health barriers to learning with love and compassion. Adequate access to essential health care services is a barrier for many low-income children, especially in the rural and underserved areas of South Carolina.

What does Healthy Learners do?

- Vision Care, including glasses replacement
- Dental Care
- Hearing Evaluation
- Asthma Care
- Health Care
- Mental/Behavioral Health Care
- Coordination of Care
- Transportation to Appointments
- Assistance with Medicaid Application Process

What are Health Barriers to Learning?

The Children's Health Fund identifies the following conditions as Health Barriers to Learning (HBLs) that are often undiagnosed/unrecognized and under managed among disadvantaged children. If left untreated these HBLs are linked with poor educational outcomes.

The identified Health Barriers to Learning are:

- Uncontrolled Asthma
- Dental Problems
- Unaddressed Hearing Loss
- Uncorrected Vision Problems
- Mental Health/Behavioral Problems (depression, anxiety and ADHD)
- Persistent Hunger
- Effects of Lead Exposure

Where does Healthy Learners serve children?



HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.

Healthy Learners has 5 office locations across South Carolina. They are located in Allendale (Low Country), Dillon (Pee Dee), Georgetown, Greenwood, and Richland (Midlands) counties serving the surrounding areas. Our strategic goals are to increase our geographic service area over time.

How does Healthy Learners Work?

Identify – a child is identified as needing Healthy Learners services through screening, exam, or communication.

Refer – Referrals can come from a teacher, parent, school nurse or other healthcare provider. Healthy Learners consent forms are then completed by the parent/guardian and submitted to Healthy Learners staff by the individual that has identified the child's need. Consent forms can be completed/submitted online, paper/pen or included in the district's back to school forms process.

Serve – Healthy Learners will coordinate care to meet the child's need.

What makes Healthy Learners Unique?

Healthy Learners is unique because we seek to help children and families overcome the difficulty of accessing the health resources they need, by providing coordination of care with the appropriate health care provider and transportation to and from the appointment.

How much does it cost?

Healthy Learners' services are provided at no cost to the families we serve. Many children we serve have Medicaid, thus the providers bill Medicaid for their services. Healthy Learners works with Medicaid eligible families to obtain or reinstate Medicaid benefits. For children who are ineligible for Medicaid, Healthy Learners pays the providers directly.

How can a child get signed up for Healthy Learners services?

Parents should contact their school nurse to get more information or find out if they qualify.

Healthy Learners can be contacted directly through the website at healthylearners.com or call your local Healthy Learners Office:



HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.

Allendale: 803.584.7663
Dillon: 843.1774.1907
Georgetown: 843.436.7020
Greenwood: 864.953.2350
Richland: 803.252.0133

The parent/guardian of the child will need to complete a Healthy Learners consent form and submit it online, through their school nurse, or referring healthcare provider. Forms are available from the referring individual or through the link below.

[Link to how to fill out video](#)
[Link to digital consent form](#)

Who is eligible for Healthy Learners services?

Healthy Learners serves children pre-K through 12 grade who are enrolled in school that are uninsured, underinsured or have Medicaid. A child who is underinsured may have limited insurance without vision or dental benefits. Eligibility is determined by free and reduced lunch status, financial need of the family, priority of need and the child's ability to access care without Healthy Learners intervention. If a child's Medicaid has lapsed, and If the service is a non-emergency, Healthy Learners staff will assist the family with getting reinstated prior to service. In an urgent situation, Healthy Learners has the ability to serve the child regardless of insurance status.

What would cause a Healthy Learners form to not be processed?

Forms that are incomplete cannot be properly processed and will cause delays in getting the child's health needs met. Please fill out all the requested information so that the health care providers can have all of the information they will need to serve the child.

How will I know when a child has an appointment?

Healthy Learners staff will contact the provider directly and schedule appointments.

Once scheduled, appointment information is provided to the child's school nurse or other referring healthcare provider.

What safeguards does Healthy Learners take when serving a child?

Child safety is Healthy Learners number one priority. Multiple procedures and practices are in



HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.

place to assure your child is safe from the moment we pick them up to the moment we bring them back to school. All staff undergo a series of screenings prior to being hired including FBI fingerprint background check, drug and alcohol screening and DMV driving record check. These screenings are repeated annually. Staff wear their Healthy Learners name badges and identify themselves according to the school's safety procedures. Healthy Learners' staff sign driver safety policies including distracted driving and speed and safety. Staff remain with the children always. Staff walk all children back into the school building. Children are never left in the vehicle unattended. Healthy Learners staff care about the children we serve, and we treat them as our own. We are dedicated to providing them with superior service so that they can reach the full potential in the classroom.

What if a parent wants to be at a child's appointment?

Parents are welcome at appointments, occasionally a provider may even require it. Parents may transport their own child to an appointment or have Healthy Learners transport the child and meet us there.

Do you pay for hearing aids?

No, Healthy Learners is not able to cover the cost of hearing aids, but we can provide information on multiple resources that can help cover the cost.

Do you pay for dental braces?

No, because braces are largely cosmetic and not associated as a solution to an identified Health Barrier to Learning, Healthy Learners is not able to cover the cost of braces.

Will Healthy Learners buy a child diabetic supplies?

For children with diabetes, test strips, lancets, needles etc. will be provided when there is an immediate need. A referral to Medicaid, Welvista, Children with Special Health Care Needs or other appropriate providers should be made for future assistance.

Does Healthy Learners take children for needed vaccines?

Healthy Learners staff persons are not authorized to give consent for the administration of vaccines/immunizations as the child's parent/legal guardian must be educated about potential adverse reactions and side effects and must sign their own informed consent.



HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.

School vaccines are usually available at your local Health Department.

Access information about the Health Department in your county at:

<https://www.scdhec.gov/health/health-public-health-clinics>

Access information about South Carolina's current required school vaccines at:

<https://scdhec.gov/health/vaccinations/childcare-school-vaccine-requirements>

Does Healthy Learners take children for Well Child Physicals?

Well Child Physicals are considered at the discretion of the Program Manager based on individual circumstances. Many times, requests for well physicals come because of academic or performance issues such as concerns about behavior and focus issues, inconsistent health care, general health concerns or lack of consistent care over time. A well physical is typically recommended by a Healthy Learners provider following a child's visit for a specific issue i.e., asthma, skin problems and is important to the concept of establishing a medical home.

Do you pay for Medication?

Yes, if the child is sick Healthy Learners will pay for short-term medication related to an acute need, like an infection.

Yes, emergency medications being available at school can make the difference between a smooth day at school and an emergency visit to the hospital. Healthy Learners will help pay for emergency asthma inhalers and epinephrine.

If the child takes medication on a regular/routine long-term basis Healthy Learners will assist with the immediate medication needs of the child then refer the family to appropriate community resources such as Medicaid, Welvista, Partnership for Prescription Assistance and individual prescription assistance programs of various pharmaceutical companies or local FQHC.

Several website resources for information on these programs are listed below:

www.welvista.org

www.needymeds.com

www.rxassist.org

www.pparx.org



HEALTHY LEARNERS

Healthy Children. Better Students. Thriving Communities.

For medication covered by Medicaid Healthy Learners is happy to pick medication up from the pharmacy and deliver it to your child's school.