2020 Summer Newsletter

*Special Edition*

School Re-Opening Resources
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Dear Colleagues,

During this unprecedented time in which we find ourselves there are things that gain more importance in our thinking and decision-making processes; chief among them are relationships. We know the benefit of relationships with one another as colleagues and friends. We rely upon one another in times of difficulty and challenge as well as in times of joy and celebration. These relationships help us in many ways and decrease the feeling of isolation that our positions often bring.

Another relationship that is so vital for us as leaders – especially now – is the relationship we have with our business solution partners. We call them our partners specifically because of the relationships we have built with them, the trust we have in them, and the collegial nature of our work together.

As we struggle to find the right paths forward in this ever-changing and increasingly challenging COVID-19 era of public education, we need to rely upon our relationships more than ever; both our relationships with one another and with our business partners.

Thanks to Jerry and Kymra Kurinskas, our Event & Marketing Coordinator, we have created strong and effective relationships with many business partners who have products and services that we will need in the days and years to come. Some of these partners have been with us from the beginning and some of have come on board more recently. Regardless of their length of time with us, however, they all bring a passion to serve the needs of children and educators – a passion in which we share.

I encourage you to review the products and resources available to you in this special edition newsletter showcasing our current business partners and all they have to offer, and hope that you will create new relationships for yourselves and your districts that will benefit you not only now during this time of crisis but for years to come.

Best wishes as you enter the next phase of your planning for the 2020-2021 school year,

Dr. Carl Ladd
Executive Director
NHSAA
carl@nhsaa.org
A Note from our Associate Executive Director…

Dear NHSAA Members (NHSAA, GSLA, CIA, SSC),

Each year we are fortunate to have a number of Business Partners who enthusiastically support our work with children, staff, families, Heath Care, Risk Management, Curriculum, Technology- essentially every component of our educational mission!

This year in thanks to them for their support and as a service to you, we have compiled this Special Summer Newsletter as a “one-stop shop” for information to assist you in your reopening efforts. This document is based on those who are, as of this writing, joining us for the 20-21 Business Partner program and have submitted content for this special edition.

Many of our partners have also contributed content to the COVID-19 resources on the home page of our website, and links to their individual site in the Business Partner section.

We hope that you will find this helpful and share it with the appropriate members of your team.

Best wishes as you enter the next phase of your planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Stay well,

Jerry Frew

Mr. Jerry Frew
Associate Executive Director
NHSAA
jerry@nhsaa.org
Going back to school is usually a time of happy anticipation, but this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed it into a source of worry for students, parents, teachers and administrators. New Hampshire’s superintendents have had to make tough, life-impacting decisions about re-opening schools without knowing the turns this pandemic could take. Adding to the stress is the economic strain many individuals as well as public employers are experiencing, and the unsettling fear all Americans are living with: What if I or someone I love gets sick with the coronavirus?

Anxiety and Depression on the Rise
Is it any wonder studies are showing a dramatic rise in levels of anxiety and depression in Americans recently? The Pew Research Center has found one-third of Americans have experienced high levels of psychological distress since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Research from Johns Hopkins University finds the number of Americans reporting symptoms of serious psychological distress in 2020 has more than tripled compared to two years ago.

HealthTrust has Important Resources to Support You and Your Employees
We want to remind our Member Groups that through your HealthTrust medical coverage you have valuable resources, including mental health resources, available to you and your employees. Those resources include:

- **HealthTrust’s Secure Website Portals.** COVID-19 coverage information is available 24/7 through tiles on the home page of the Secure Member Portal (SMP) and the Secure Enrollee Portal (SEP).

- **LifeResources Employee Assistance Program (EAP), 800.759.8122:** If you are a Member Group that offers HealthTrust medical coverage, you, your employees and their family and household members can access EAP resources including:
  - Up to six free telephone or video mental health counseling sessions per issue with a licensed, master’s level counselor, or help locating a qualified provider for in-person counseling.
  - One free 30- to 60-minute consultation with a financial planner, credit counselor or certified public accountant for each financial issue.
  - Webinars on COVID-19 related subjects and coping strategies.
  - Access to the EAP’s frequently updated, new website, mylifexpert.com, with many articles, videos, reference links, and worksheets on COVID-19, financial and legal issues, family, education, health, wellness, career, everyday living and many other topics. Individuals with HealthTrust coverage can log in to their SEP account and simply click on the LifeResources button to be directed to the EAP website.

- **LiveHealth Online, www.livehealthonline.com:** Individuals covered by a HealthTrust medical plan can speak with a behavioral health professional without leaving the comfort and privacy of their home.

- **Aware Recovery Care, 844.AwareRC (603.769.8463):** A recent survey of people with substance use disorders showed that 20 percent had increased substance use since the pandemic began. Aware Recovery Care is available to individuals age 17 and older who are covered by a HealthTrust medical plan. The program includes up to 52 weeks of in-home recovery care from a multidisciplinary team for individuals with substance use disorders.

- **Anthem’s 24/7 NurseLine (800.544.1901) is available to answer medical questions including those about COVID-19.**

The HealthTrust Enrollee Services team and our Benefits and Wellness Advisors are available to answer questions about our coverage, programs and services. It is our privilege to work together with New Hampshire’s school administrators to help keep our state healthy and strong.
As your risk management partner, Primex³ is committed to assisting our members in making decisions regarding the implementation of best practices in response the COVID-19 pandemic. We have gathered information and resources specific to our school members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and return to school in the Fall of 2020.

**Prerecorded Webinar:** [https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/category/20](https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/category/20)

Primex3 co-sponsored this educational event in conjunction with its trusted long-term partners, the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA), the New Hampshire Association of School Business Officials (NHASBO), and the New Hampshire School Boards Association (NHSBA).

This session focuses on clarifying liability coverage in the context of COVID-19, explores preventive best practices to consider as school staff is preparing for the reopening in the fall, it delves into the development and implementation of an actual reopening plan as reviewed by SAU 19 (representing the districts of Goffstown and New Boston) staff and it highlights the many resources and assistance provided by our trusted school professional associations.

**School Reopening Bulletin:** This bulletin provides an overview of considerations for opening schools in the Fall with links to some of the most comprehensive guidance documents from State and Federal authorities. [https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/category/20](https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/category/20)

**School Resources in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic:** This section of the website provides guidance specifically addressing school operations in response to COVID. This include the Governor’s reopening guidance and guidance from the CDC. [https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/category/20](https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/category/20)

**Primex Member Resources:** This section of the website provides resources on various risk management best practices, including COVID-19 concerns and implications. [https://nhprimex.org/account/resources/]
Alma builds critical SIS tooling that significantly improves school operations and empowers educators to foster better student outcomes. Alma is the future ready, comprehensive Student Information System (SIS) for New Hampshire K-12 schools and districts. As a visionary company that supports evolving education, Alma proudly offers an uncomplicated platform and a more intuitive approach to competency-based practices, state reporting, bulk imports, student/parent/teacher messaging, complex, flexible class schedule building and more.

Created by educators from the ground-up, Alma empowers teachers with the tools to easily communicate and engage with students and families, creating tighter community relationships. Robust messaging and alert functionality, embedded throughout the platform, saves users time and helps schools and families to stay connected. Teachers, parents and students can access real-time information anywhere at any time via phone, tablet and desktop ensuring reliability and better customer experiences.

Alma’s agile platform allows users to capture full day, half day, and hours-based attendance. Supporting unlimited scheduling scenarios allows school to easily adapt, providing flexibility to pivot at a moment’s notice.

Alma accommodates traditional and progressive educational practices, including standards-based grading and personalized learning pathways. Our modern tool set supports in school learning, remote learning and everything in between. Alma’s standards-based gradebook provides a clear measure of students’ proficiency and growth on any skills, objectives, or standards educators choose to align and track. Over time, teachers and administrators can monitor progress at the learning target level to see how students are progressing and inform instruction. Parents can see their child’s progress towards mastery of a standard.

As the first SIS to partner with Google Classroom, Alma delivers uninterrupted updates between platforms. Alma also integrates with Schoology, Canvas and other third party applications. With an intuitive suite of reporting tools, Alma makes the process of capturing data easier, quicker and more painless. Whether it’s a simple class list, an emergency trip roster, or a most cumbersome state report, our rapid report-building tools empowers educators to immediately access valuable information.

While Alma’s interface is easy to navigate and user friendly due to its modern design, it also offers a powerful and robust backend which is flexible, scalable and reliable. Our team of engineering experts makes sure your data is secure and student privacy is maintained at the highest level.

Alma’s powerful, intuitive and flexible technology enables New Hampshire schools to quickly pivot and embrace immediate opportunities for their entire learning communities today, and tomorrow.

Want to learn more? Check Alma out at www.getalma.com.
A New Photography Experience

Lifetouch is leading the photography industry in providing comprehensive photography session safety protocols. These protocols follow the guidelines and recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards related to COVID-19.

Our new photography safety protocols include:

- **Enhanced Cleaning**: Photographers are provided sanitizing wipes and spray to clean camera stations and equipment.

- **Social Distancing**: Employees will follow new posing and social distancing requirements to ensure a safe and comfortable photography session.

- **Pre-Session Health Check**: Photographers are provided a thermometer for their daily self-health assessment before.

- **Safety Training**: Lifetouch employees are required to complete comprehensive safety training.

- **Masks**: Photographers are required to wear masks during the entire photography session. We recommend the use of masks or other face coverings for both students and other individuals participating in the Picture Day process.

- **Cleaning**: Photographers are provided sanitizing wipes and spray to clean camera stations and equipment.

While photography sessions may look different this year, as a trusted partner, our goal remains the same; to ensure you receive this essential photography service and families can continue to capture life’s memories.

Contact your Lifetouch Representative for more details.

Lifetouch.com
Partnership with McGraw Hill Education

At McGraw-Hill Education, a dedicated team of curriculum specialists, instructional architects and platform visionaries work together to create targeted, thoughtful solutions for your teaching and learning community that are informed by a deep analysis of metrics, coupled with administrative anecdote.

The Connecticut Team for McGraw-Hill Education brings consultative services that encompass, but are not limited to, a three-tiered approach to partnership: Structural Analysis, Curriculum Alignment, and Prescriptive Resources.

Structural Analysis

A team of specialists will work with the district through a data deep dive, using both state and school-based data to identify trends within the different subgroups. Through a workshop approach, leadership is guided through an analytical process that identifies key instructional, infrastructural, and overall performance markers that are to be considered for growth.

Curriculum Alignment

At both a state and district level, McGraw-Hill Education partners with our educators to ensure alignment to standards, initiatives, instructional models, and professional development opportunities. Aligning both data results, a product of the Structural Analysis, with the instructional vision, affords all parties to craft solutions that realize a successful path to measured progress. Our curriculum leaders work with leadership to ensure alignment, parity and responsive curriculum development and recommendations.

Prescriptive Resources

As a final step of the consultative partnership, McGraw-Hill Education offers instructional recommendations based on the Structural Analysis and Curriculum Alignment phases of our plan. Targeted, research-based tools, that align with need and vision, are offered in a comprehensive detailing of a three-pronged approach: assessment, resources, and professional development. In true partnership with educational leadership, McGraw-Hill is an invested stakeholder and will deliver quality digital and print resources to realize the district vision outlined in the steps leading to implementation.
COVID-19 has taken an emotional toll on children, families, schools, and communities. The stress from the pandemic can overwhelm students’ ability to cope and impact their learning, behavior, and relationships. The Rethink Ed Trauma Toolkit can help you mitigate the effects of the pandemic on your students as they begin the new school year with inevitable changes.

The Rethink Ed Trauma Toolkits for elementary (grades K-5) and secondary (grades 6-12) provide strategies and resources for schools to support the social, emotional, and mental well-being of teachers, staff, students, and their families. The Trauma Toolkit includes:

- Tips and strategies to help administrators develop safety guidelines for their schools.
- Educator videos with strategies to support the emotional well-being of teachers and staff, as well as strategies to help students feel safe, supported, and connected.
- Student lessons and activities focused on key SEL topics such as emotions, stress management, support systems, and resilience.
- Resources to support the emotional well-being of parents and caregivers so that they are better able to help their children manage their emotions and build resilience.

The Trauma Toolkits 4 Subject Areas:

- **Emotions** (Subtopics: Self-Knowledge, Self-Compassion)
  - Identifying, accepting, and expressing emotions
  - Recognizing that all emotions are okay

- **Stress Management** (Subtopics: Self-Control, Mindfulness)
  - Changing feelings, thoughts, and behaviors
  - Using positive self-talk
  - Practicing mindfulness
  - Practicing self-care

- **Support Systems** (Subtopics: Wants and Needs, Self-Advocacy, Empathy)
  - Identifying needs
  - Determining who can help and how to ask for help
  - Supporting others with empathy and kindness

- **Resilience** (Subtopics: Growth Mindset, Goal Setting, Optimism)
  - Developing strategies to overcome adversity
  - Practicing strategies for developing a growth-mindset and optimism
  - Setting goals
Since 1987, ServiceMaster by Gaudet has been in the business of helping people. Whether it was the carpet and facility cleaning in the early days or the disaster restoration that became our focus, we get to be the folks fixing a problem. We love that!

As I’m sure is the case for many of you, we’ve had to add areas of focus to our core business. We don’t like to call it a shift in focus, because the water/sewage/mold/fire work that we do is not going away. Unfortunately, pipes still burst, sewage still backs up and mold still grows!

We’ve put a big focus on cleaning and sanitization. Investing in new equipment, techniques and cleaning products has allowed us to offer top-notch sanitization for buildings of any shape and size. We’re cleaning many schools and large commercial buildings right now!

As schools begin to open in various capacities, please touch base with us so we can assist in keeping the staff, students and everyone involved as safe as possible. We look forward to having an opportunity to help! Contact us for a free consultation.
Create a Culture of SEL

Powerful Educator™ is a blended and online school-based professional development course that equips educators with essential SE skills to build a positive school culture. Created in partnership with Mindset Works, founded by pioneering growth mindset researcher Dr. Carol Dweck, this course uses a proven framework to train staff to boost student resilience, motivation, and confidence.
- Contains resources focused on teaching SEL to a broad range of students, including English language learners
- Includes classroom implementation
- Can be used in structured professional development or self-guided environment

Empower Students to Put SEL in Action

ACT®Mawi Learning’s evidence-based SEL curriculum consists of mental models, frameworks, and tools that bring SEL to life through everyday application — like, growth mindset and relationship building.
- K-12 curriculum empowers students to forge connections across five core SE skills. The curriculum pursues a combined, holistic approach to learning that fosters success.
- Additional tools help students work toward current and long-term educational goals by developing their abilities to study effectively, overcome test anxiety, think critically, manage time, and more.
- Tailored strategies for English language learners address unique challenges they face and support them as they learn to view their culture as a powerful asset.

Demonstrate Growth with SEL Assessment

ACT®Tessera® is a tool for helping educators track student SEL development. It measures five important SE skills, plus school climate, and provides clear feedback to students, educators, and parents. ACT® Tessera® offers these advantages:
- Reliable, valid results thanks to a multimodal approach that goes beyond traditional self-reporting
- Robust, research-driven assessment that requires no special or time-consuming preparation
- Easy and convenient to administer online
- Comprehensive reports are provided for the school as a whole as well as each individual student
- Valuable data and feedback supports student self-knowledge, growth mindset, and skill building
Getting Ready for a Unique Year

This is a year of leading that is sure to be different, and students will no doubt be returning with unique needs and potentially significant learning loss from the spring. Your staff is navigating different learning contexts and adapting to change, all while staying true to the teaching practices you know will support students. We have resources to help!

Our recommendations for the 2020–21 school year:

Ensure you get reliable data early in the school year.

Plan for addressing unfinished learning strategically.

Prioritize engaging students.

Partner with families.

Plan for teaching in non-traditional contexts.

Visit Teaching and Learning in 2020 for i-Ready to get tips and tools!

Julie Armitage, Educational Sales Consultant—NH
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Since 2009, Effective School Solutions (ESS) has been a leader in in-school mental health. We began as private therapeutic day school, an out-of-district placement for students who could not be served in their home district. From that experience, came an idea- why couldn’t the same type of clinical programming be adapted and offered within the four walls of a school building, so that students can be retained in district?

Since that time, ESS has grown from an initial set of two partner districts who are still with us today, to over 60 districts across seven states. We are pleased to announce the expansion of our mission to New Hampshire with the launching of our first partnership in the state in SAU 24. We are committed to reinventing K-12 mental health care practices in schools through the development of partnerships with school districts to help them implement innovative mental health programs that improve care, strengthen outcomes, and maintain students in-district.

We do this through a multi-tiered approach to K-12 mental health care that introduces mental health best practices and clinical programs into the traditional school day, providing each student with comprehensive support tailored to their needs. We’ve organized this approach into a framework called the RTI Framework for Mental Health Care- a lens through which district leaders can plan their mental health support efforts.

Check out our website for more information about our organization and mental health programs, [https://www.effectiveschoolsolutions.com/](https://www.effectiveschoolsolutions.com/). There you will also find links to on demand webinars on student mental health, issues of MindBeat (our mental health newsletter), as well as original content pieces highlighting important topics related to student mental health. Lastly, we have published several thought leadership articles to help assist districts with planning for re-entry including the most recent article on our C.O.P.E. Framework, which lays out a mental health action plan for back to school. This work has been informed by our experience providing therapeutic support during COVID-19 partnering with 60 districts along the east coast and seeks to create an actionable roadmap to help districts prioritize mental health during back to school.

In conjunction with the article, we have also designed a checklist entitled Assessing Mental Health Readiness for School Re-Entry, which provides a path for putting the C.O.P.E framework into practice that we would be glad to share with any interested districts that just email us.

We are excited to be a partner of NHSAA and to help impact students, families, and school districts in New Hampshire.
Imagine Learning: Your remote learning partner for Assessment, Math and ELA. We work with several districts in NH (Nashua, Inter Lakes, etc.).

With uncertainty in Education, Imagine Learning has developed options to support your remote/hybrid plans for your Assessment, ELA and Math Interventions as you “re-enter” school. Our goal is to ensure that the content, the engagement, the support and the access will be optimal for All students learning with intentional SEL practices in mind.

Fostering a positive learning climate, a sense of belonging, and immediate feedback our students receive our ELA and math platforms are unique in creating a barrier between constructive and struggle and frustration and family engagement.

Our Math platform serves grade PreK- through Geometry:
   a) Live Math Teachers
   b) Motivation through Engagement
   c) Language of Math

Adaptive, Engaging, pathways can be aligned to your Core (i.e. Eureka), we teach the language of math, support students just in time with Bilingual certified tutors available 7 days a week, motivational (points can be given to charities), provide STEM activities and journaling.
https://www.imaginelearning.com/math/prek-2
https://www.imaginelearning.com/math/3-plus

Our ELA platform serves PreK-6:
   a) The Language Advantage – Academic Language
   b) Rigor
   c) Scaffolds & Supports

It is adaptive, engaging, culturally responsive, follows UDL and 1st language support, teach academic language, teachers can leverage playlist feature to cover units/sections missed, provides re-teach plans for teachers, and student reading recording available.
https://www.imaginelearning.com/literacy/language-and-literacy

Our Reading Platform serves grades 3-8: Following a blended learning model, Imagine Reading includes teacher-led instruction, online student practice, facilitated classroom discussion, and group projects. Imagine Reading fits flexibly within the existing curriculum, with multidisciplinary content organized into thematic text sets to make complex, grade-level texts meaningful and relevant. It provides essential high-quality material for our teachers that can be used during ELA or Social studies.
https://www.imaginelearning.com/literacy/reading

Our Assessment Platform provides K-12 baseline assessment to level the playing field as a consistent measure for your students - Especially at a time when the state assessment was cancelled this past year and the future is uncertain. It is recognized as Predictive, Reliable and Valid - Even the MA DOE or Gates foundation have noticed. It aligns to NH standard and provides:
   a) standard mastery,
   b) progress monitoring,
   c) summative data for forecasting and predictability with a high rate of reliability (see video)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la0JAPvGjKg

Our PD options: Imagine University provides even more insights for teachers and ways to leverage synchronous and asynchronous teaching options. Parent webinars and recordings in English/ Spanish available.
As a partnership between labor and management, we recognize many may be facing new challenges as schools begin to reopen. SCHOOLCARE is available to support you with various well-being resources:

**Virtual Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Seminar**

On August 19th at 4 p.m. SCHOOLCARE is excited to host a virtual EAP seminar focused on maintaining well-being when returning to school.

[Sign up to attend here](#)

**Telehealth Virtual Care**

Convenient and face-to-face connection when you need it most. Connect with providers for medical and mental health care needs through chat, phone or video.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**The Pulse of SCHOOLCARE**

SCHOOLCARE provides monthly news articles that highlight relevant topics such as the importance of preventive care and how to access behavioral healthcare when you need it.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**OUR MISSION**

For over 25 years, SCHOOLCARE has supported Members and Participants throughout New Hampshire by keeping their best interests in mind. Our mission is to provide education and training for employees and employers to become better informed health consumers with healthier lifestyles, and enable the purchase of quality health care in a cost effective manner.
YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR ONLINE READING INSTRUCTION AND RESOURCES

Sonday System® 1 offers structured, systematic, multisensory reading intervention for readers at the beginning stages of reading through the end of the 2nd-grade reading level. Each 35-minute lesson uses proven Orton-Gillingham methods to provide effective intervention in small-group settings. Only one day of teacher training needed!

Sonday System® 2 offers structured, systematic, multisensory reading intervention for intermediate readers in reading levels from third through eighth grade. Each 35-minute lesson uses proven Orton-Gillingham methods to provide effective intervention in small-group settings. Only one day of teacher training needed!

Sonday System® Essentials is a systematic, direct, and explicit way to teach phonics and other essential reading skills to the whole class using multisensory Orton-Gillingham methods. It is designed to supplement Tier 1 core curriculum by filling the gap of incomplete phonics and word study instruction left by the typical core curriculum. Only one day of teacher training needed!

And we’re proud to announce the launch of WINSTRUCTION® - a new online and on-demand professional development subscription service for educators. You get access to live events, on-demand professional development webinars, peer-to-peer networking, and valuable continuing education credits - all starting at just $4.99/month.

Visit www.winsorlearning.com for more information.