

thrive

Strong minds. Strong bodies. Strong schools.

A partnership of the RI Departments of Education and Health
with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

thrive report

Vol 4, Number 2, September 2011

September
2011 Issue:
Back to School

[Back to School](#)

[Core Issue: School
Health News for
2011-2012 School
Year](#)

[Fresh from the Field](#)

thrive by the
numbers
News You Can
Use

300,000 Annual
incidents of sports
related
concussions in
the U.S.

200 Percent
increase, from
1997-2007 in
concussions
among 14-19 year
olds playing
organized team

September 2011 Focus: Back to School

Welcome back to a new school year! As the new school year begins, Rhode Island's Coordinated School Health Program would like to support your efforts to address new health-related laws, regulations, or programs and/or provide guidance regarding annual health-related tasks that accompany the start of every school year. See *The Core Issue, below*, for details on back to school news you can use.

Please continue to check the new Coordinated School Health website, [thrive](#), for additional and updated information related to school health in Rhode Island..

The Core Issue: School Health News for the 2011-2012 School Year

New thrive website! The new and improved [thrive website](#) has been updated to be more user friendly. The thrive website provides information that includes legislation, answers to frequently asked parent questions, the school health education framework, the school health regulations and a variety of school health related topics.

New Rhode Island Safe School Act

sports in the U.S.

54 Percent of teens who text message daily.

47 Percent of teens that sent a text message they regret sending.

16 Percent of RI high school students who report being bullied at school.

6 Percent of RI teens who report skipping school because they feel unsafe.

13 Percent of RI teens who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning and who report skipping school because they feel unsafe.

13 Number of vaccine preventable diseases covered by the RI Department of Health, Vaccinate Before you Graduate Program.

165,681 Number of RI school age children vaccinated through school-based H1N1 flu clinics in 2009-

The legislation directs the Department of Education to prescribe an age-appropriate policy on bullying prevention to ensure a unified, statewide policy that follows Rhode Island General laws.

The policy will include prohibitions against bullying, cyberbullying and retaliation; clear procedures for students, staff, parents, guardians and others to report bullying; procedures for responding to and investigating reports of bullying, and a range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a perpetrator for bullying. The legislation ([2011-S0732Aaa](#)) / ([2011-H5941Aaa](#)) was sponsored by Sen. Beatrice A. Lanzi (D-Dist. 26, Cranston) and Rep. Deborah Ruggiero (D-Dist. 74, Jamestown, Middletown).

Student-Athlete Concussion Law Expanded

RI STATE HOUSE - Under the School and Youth Programs Concussion Act expansion ([2011-H 5440A](#), [2011-S 0291A](#)), coaches and volunteers will have to take a *refresher training course each year*. The expansion also adds language encouraging school districts to require school nurses to take the course as well.

For a detailed summary of the RI Concussion Law For Concussions and Head Injuries in Competitive Athletics, including forms, go to the [thrive website](#).

Guide to Identify and Report Child Abuse in Schools

The [Guide to Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse in the Schools](#) has been updated for use by all school staff. Please note that all school personnel are responsible under the law to report child abuse and neglect or suspected child abuse and neglect. This guide provides information regarding responsibilities, roles, protocols and processes to support your efforts to address this important issue.

School Based Vaccination Clinics

Based on the success of reaching students through its school-based clinics, the RI Department of Health (HEALTH) is continuing to provide [school-based influenza clinics](#).

2010.

Sources:

[Rhode Island Department of Health](#),
[Pew Research Center](#), [ImPACT](#)

RIDE School Health News You Can Use Links

[Rhode Island Department of Health](#)

[Rhode Island Interscholastic League](#)

[Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families](#)

[Youth Pride, Inc.](#)

[Kids Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

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Annie Marie Silvia,

The RI Department of Health has expanded the [Vaccinate Before You Graduate \(VBYG\)](#) to include all students in the state from grades 9 through 12. VBYG is a free, school-based adolescent immunization program that provides Rhode Island youth access to the vaccines they need before they graduate high school. VBYG allows students to receive vaccine for the following illnesses:

- Seasonal flu (this year's vaccine will also protect against H1N1 flu)
- Hepatitis A
- Polio
- Hepatitis B
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Meningococcal Conjugate (Meningitis)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

For [detailed information](#) and clinic schedules go to the [HEALTH](#) website.

School Health Data Collection Activities for 2012

- School Health Profiles - Winter 2012
- School Health Policies and Practices Study - 2012
- SurveyWorks! (formerly SALT Survey) - 2012

Annual Guidance:

- [Updated Policy Statement Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)
- [The red book: Exposure to Blood on the Job: What School Employees Need to Know Policy Guidelines Relating to HIV/Hepatitis](#)
- [Universal Precautions in a School Setting](#)

Editor
The *thrive report*
can be found at
www.thriveri.org/report.html

Join Our Mailing List!

Fresh from the Field: Senior Project on Bullying by Olivia King, Toll Gate High School - 2011

See Olivia's *I AM Project* [website](#) and hear her sing the original song.



"Together we can bring about change and understanding and truly make a difference"

If you would like to submit a project or an article describing a successful school health program from your school to *Fresh from the Field*, please contact [Anne Marie Silvia](#).

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback about **thrive**, Rhode Island's Coordinated School Health model. Please email us at midge.sabatini@ride.ri.gov or rosemary.reilly-chammat@health.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

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