



Return to School (RTS) School Nurse FAQs

What is the Return to School (RTS) Program?

The RCH RTS Program helps students with school needs related to a medical or mental health hospitalization or complex health care need. We work with families, RCH care teams, and schools to help students get the support they need at school.

Who does RTS support?

RTS supports RCH patients who may need help returning to school after a medical or mental health hospitalization or complex health care need. This may include students who need help with school forms, health needs, accommodations, attendance, communication, or planning.

Does RTS only help students who have been hospitalized?

RTS primarily supports students who are or have been hospitalized for a medical or mental health condition. Outpatient support is currently limited and may expand in the future. If you have a student who could use RTS support, please reach out to the medical (school@choc.org) or mental health (schoolreintegration@choc.org) team to discuss the specific situation.

What can RTS help schools with?

RTS may help with:

- Communication between the family, school, and RCH care team
- School forms and medical documentation
- Understanding a student's health-related school needs
- School accommodations and supports
- Planning for a student's transition back to school
- Attendance or school avoidance concerns
- Connecting families with additional resources

When should school staff contact RTS?

Contact RTS when an RCH patient has a medical or mental health need that is affecting school and the student or family may need additional support.

Not sure if RTS can help? Contact us and we'll help determine the next step.

Can RTS complete school medical forms?

RTS can help identify what forms or medical information may be needed and help coordinate with the appropriate RCH care team. Medical recommendations, orders, and clinical documentation are completed by the appropriate healthcare provider.



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Can RCH talk with our school about a student?

A parent or guardian must provide permission before RCH can share a student's health information with school staff. A Release of Information (ROI) is needed.

Can school nurses access a student's RCH health information?

Eligible school nurses may access certain medical health information through RCH's EHR access process when the appropriate parent or guardian authorization is in place. Email school@choc.org for more information about signing up for RCH EHR access.

What is the difference between ROI and EHR Access?

A ROI allows RCH and authorized school staff to communicate and share approved information. EHR Access may allow an eligible school nurse to view certain information directly in the student's RCH health record.

How does RTS decide how much support a student needs?

Every student is different. RTS works with the family and health care professional to provide the appropriate level of support. Some students may only need basic information or forms, while others may need more communication and planning between the family, RCH, and school.

Does RTS replace school-based services?

No. When appropriate, RTS works with the student's school team. Schools and districts continue to determine and provide school-based services, accommodations, health plans, and educational supports.

How can school staff contact RTS?

- **Medical or health-related needs:** school@choc.org
- **Mental health needs:** schoolreintegration@choc.org

Not sure which team to contact? Email either team and we'll help get you to the right place.

What resources can I share with families?

Schools can share the RTS Family Postcard, RTS Brochure, and Family RTS FAQs with families who may benefit from support.