

Specialized Health Needs Interagency Collaboration at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Who We Are

The Specialized Health Needs Interagency Collaboration (SHNIC) program is a collaborative partnership between Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Maryland State Department of Education. Our primary goal is to provide community education that facilitates the inclusion of students with specialized health needs in their schools and communities. We provide free training, consultation and technical assistance, both on-site and virtually, to help teams safely and effectively manage the needs of children and adolescents, from birth through age 21.

Who We Serve

The SHNIC team works across Maryland with:

- Parents and caregivers
- Students with specialized health needs
- School systems and local education agencies
- Childcare providers
- Health departments
- Community service agencies

Our nurse educators and education specialists support students with a range of specialized health needs, including:

- Feeding tube management
- Urinary catheterization
- Tracheostomy and ventilator management
- Neurological disorders
- Spinal cord injury and paralysis
- Genetic disorders
- Medication management
- Orthopedic conditions
- Medical device training
- Educational planning (e.g., IEP and Section 504 plans)
- Emergency planning



Services We Offer

- Community-based consultation and training to support students' specialized health needs
- Guidance on how medical diagnoses may impact education
- Seminars and workshops on specialized health needs
- Evidence-based technical assistance from a variety of disciplines, including occupational and physical therapy, behavioral health, special education, and nursing
- Case-by-case consultations for students with medical devices or equipment
- Connections to community resources and support services for families and professionals
- Educational materials and publications about specific medical conditions

Our Success

Our program has a strong track record of participant satisfaction and effective collaboration with agencies and programs supporting students with specialized health needs. Each year, we train more than 5,000 individuals through:

- State and national presentations
- School nursing publications

Participants consistently report achieving their education and training goals, as well as having increased confidence and improved ability to safely support students.



“The SHNIC program has been invaluable in training our teachers and nurses on the health needs of complex, medically fragile students. Being from a small, rural school system with limited resources, we have greatly benefited from this professional development for our staff.”

— School principal

CONTACT US

Specialized Health Needs Interagency Collaboration at Kennedy Krieger Institute

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call **443-923-9400**, or call toll-free at **888-554-2080**. TTY users, please contact us at **443-923-2645**, or dial **711** to make a Maryland Relay call.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit:

KennedyKrieger.org/SHNIC



Physicians and Healthcare Professionals

To make a referral, email us at **FindASpecialist@KennedyKrieger.org** or call our Physician Referral Line at **443-923-9403**.

Program Location

1750 East Fairmount Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21231



Photographs used are for illustrative purposes only, and any person shown is a model.

Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes and respects the rights of employees, trainees, and patients and students, and their families. At Kennedy Krieger, we ground our care, services, training and research in treating others with respect and civility. We respect the cultural identity of every person. Kennedy Krieger does not discriminate against people based on, but not limited to, perceived or actual race, color, culture, ethnicity, national origin, age, language spoken, accent, marital status, veteran or military status, immigration status, socioeconomic status (i.e., access to resources), physical or mental disability, religion, pregnancy status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. We strive for equitable care for all individuals for whom we provide services, training, education and research participation. We encourage employees, trainees, and patients and students, and their families, to become active partners in the services provided by asking questions, seeking resources and advocating for their needs. Our culture of care is extended to our patients, the patients' family members and other people served. Here, "family" refers to parents, other family members, guardians, surrogate decision-makers and healthcare agents. ©2026 Kennedy Krieger Institute 7/2026



Learn More. Get Involved. Stay Connected. Visit: **KennedyKrieger.org/Connect**

