



Healthy Learners

Removing Children's Health Barriers to Learning

Healthy Learners is on a mission to transform the futures of children living in poverty across South Carolina. For many children in under-resourced communities, their educational success is at risk because of health care challenges that can be fixed, but have not been addressed.

Healthy Learners is devoted to removing children's health barriers to learning by providing students with screenings, referrals and access to essential medical, dental and vision care so that they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

By the Numbers in 2025

- **3,700+** children served, receiving more than **19,000** health care services
- **45,000** screenings (vision, dental, hearing) provided to **22,950** children in **257** schools across **24** school districts
- **3** new counties added: Abbeville, Spartanburg and Darlington
- **9** new partners and providers: **2** community partners and **7** service providers

Addressing Health Barriers to Learning

Research has proven that education is the key for children from under-resourced communities to go further in life. Yet, for many, their educational success is at risk because of unaddressed health care challenges impeding their learning. Health Reach was created in 1992 (renamed Healthy Learners in 2000) to address these challenges head-on and serve as the catalyst to ensure all children get the health care they need to thrive.

Healthy Learners began primarily as a vision services program in five Columbia elementary schools. Today, it serves more than 250 schools across South Carolina, offering services like assistance with referrals for mental and behavioral health support, dental



care, coordination of care, transportation to appointments, vision care, hearing care and more. Healthy Learners works collaboratively with communities, schools, health care providers and families to improve academic and health related outcomes.

Mission in Action

Healthy Learners reflects Catholic Social Teaching by honoring the God-given dignity of every child and Christ's call to love our neighbor. The ministry removes health barriers that can prevent children from learning, thriving and reaching their full potential.

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