

# Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of

 CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



## Is it true? Is the source reliable? Is it helpful?

These are questions we ask ourselves as we seek information in various media: magazines, professional journals, social media, and websites. The world has so much information, guidance, advice, and opinions. How do we discern the information we will use?

Being able to independently verify information is critically important. You can do several things to ensure that a source of information is reliable and factual (at least based on what is known now).

What is the source? Have you used it in the past and found it to be reliable and up-to-date? If it is a new source of information, does it include references to sources known to you? Transparency is important. If it is an organization, can you view the staff, board, and their affiliations? If a single author, are their credentials and affiliations listed along with their sources for the article?

A blog article sponsored by nDash<sup>1</sup> encourages us to do our due diligence when vetting sources. Use multiple checks through places such as Google, LinkedIn, and

online following, as well as checking to be sure the website cited is legitimate.

Is the information presented based on recent research or experiences? If from some time ago, is it still respected as “what we know to be true” in the field? What sources of analysis were used to reach the conclusions or guidance offered?

Keeping all information up-to-date and factual is challenging, but credible sources seek to provide valuable information that people can use. One piece of information that can be helpful is to understand the source’s intent for sharing information. Does it claim to be nonpartisan? Is there evidence that it is? Is it explained if it has a point of view or bias? Some sources of information have technically factual data, but the information is presented in a biased way, which may lead to misinterpretation.

Another thing for you to consider is your own bias. Do you consistently use the same sources? Are you seeing

a full perspective or only a point of view that reinforces your opinion? In an [article about vetting sources of information by Emily Johnson](#)<sup>2</sup>, a research and instruction librarian explores the idea of confirmation bias, a practice of using the information to validate your ideas. She also shares tips for evaluating websites by investigating reputation, funding, mission, leadership, website address, and accuracy bias.

One organization dedicated to creating “a news literate America” is The News Literacy Project<sup>3</sup>. It has a [quiz](#) that offers scenarios for consideration and explanations about whether something is reliable.

There are so many sources of information. It can be challenging to find what one wants. It is easy to become distracted by links to other articles or websites. Be a little skeptical in your search for solid information, and

continue to ask yourself if the source is credible and reliable. Focus, search, and retrieve what you need.

The Family Support Team shared multiple sources of information in the August 2, [Refresh Your Resources](#) webinar.

### Sources

1 “Best Practices for Finding and Vetting Sources: Linda Pophal, <https://www.ndash.com/blog/best-practices-for-finding-and-vetting-sources> June 30, 2022

2 “Evaluating Information: Vetting Your Sources – LibGuides at Sarah Lawrence College,” Emily Johnson, Research and Instruction Librarian, April 12, 2022

3 The News Literacy Project <https://newslit.org/>

## Medicaid Renewals: What Families Need to Know

In 2020 the federal government passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This act allowed increased funding to go towards Medicaid during the pandemic. and enforced the continuous coverage requirement, which prohibited states from terminating most Medicaid enrollees’ coverage.

### Challenges Families Will Face

The continuous coverage requirement ended in March 2023. To continue coverage, families will need to file their renewal for eligibility. Renewal forms have been sent by postal mail. Some enrollees have had temporary housing or moved since the start of the requirement. Completing the paperwork may be difficult. Some families may not be eligible for coverage, or their coverage may change.

### Information for Families and Family Support Programs

Here are some important steps to take as this process rolls out.

- Become familiar with [Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services](#) process with renewals.
- Reach out to local health centers who can assist.
- Look for notices in the mail or contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Department of Human Services.
- Ask for paperwork to be in the native language you speak.
- Complete the renewal form.

If families lose coverage, they have choices. They can reapply, obtain coverage through the [Pennie marketplace](#), or enroll in an employer plan if possible. Parents can enroll their children in the [Children’s Health Insurance Program](#) (CHIP). The family income eligibility requirements are between \$39,000 to \$62,400 for children ages six to 18. If families fall in this range, they will get CHIP for free. For younger children, there is a higher income eligibility.

Contact your Pennsylvania County Assistance Office or statewide customer service call center at 1-877-395-8930. For residents in Philadelphia, please call 215-560-7226.

### Sources

1. The Center for Law and Social Policy <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/unwinding-the-medicaid-continuous-coverage-requirement>
2. Spotlight PA <https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2023/04/pa-medicaid-reenrollment-guide-appeal-help/>
3. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-the-unwinding-of-the-medicaid-continuous-enrollment-provision/>
4. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/millions-at-risk-of-losing-medicaid-coverage-as-pandemic-era-program-ends>



## Family Support Team

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children's Trust Fund grantees, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

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[Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund](#)

[Pennsylvania Strengthening Families](#)

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# Parents as Teachers Online Courses

## Foundational and Model Implementation

For new parent educators and new supervisors of affiliate programs. Login is required.

[Register for September 11-22](#)

[Register for September 11-19](#)

[Register for October 23- November 3](#)

[Register for October 23-31](#)

## Foundational 2: 3 Years through Kindergarten

[Register for September 5-8](#)

[Register for October 2-6](#)

Questions regarding registration for PAT trainings? Contact [Jennifer Esposito](#).

Register for other courses offered by National Parents as Teachers at their [website](#).

## Upcoming Family Support Webinar

**Save the date for the September 6, 2023 (10:00 a.m.) Family Support webinar, focused on supporting children's mental health.**



# What to Know about Booster Seats

## Why are they so important?

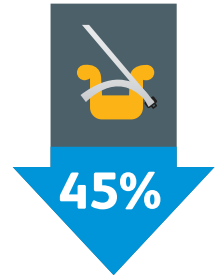
Booster seats help protect kids who are too big for a car seat but too small for just a seat belt.



Although seat belts are safer than nothing at all, children who should be in booster seats but wear only seat belts are at risk of **severe abdominal, head and spinal injuries** in the event of a crash.



Booster seats can **reduce the risk** of serious injury by 45 percent compared to seat belts alone.



Motor vehicle crashes\* are the second-leading cause of death for children 4 to 10 years old.



At least **40%** of these children were riding without a restraint that could have saved their lives.



**351 children** this age died in motor vehicle crashes\* in 2020.

\* vehicle occupant fatalities

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2019 *National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats* found that among children ages 4 – 7 only 69.5 percent of children observed were restrained in either forward-facing car seats or booster seats, while **16.6 percent were prematurely transitioned to seatbelts and 13.8 percent were unrestrained.**

A child should remain in a booster seat until they have outgrown the seat by height or weight according to the booster seat instruction manual.

**Buckle up every ride, every time, in the right seat.**

**SAFE  
KIDS**  
WORLDWIDE®

Learn more at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)