MASSTART

Massachusetts
Technology Assistance Resource Team

A free program providing services for children with special health care needs and who may be assisted by medical technology in the school setting



Sponsored by
Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH)
Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition
Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs (DCYSHN)

What is MASSTART?

MASSTART is a FREE service supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH)

MASSTART providers help families and schools plan for the health care and safety of children with special health care needs, especially those who are assisted by medical technology, so that they can attend schools safely in Massachusetts.

MASSTART providers have extensive experience providing health care services to children and adolescents with a wide range of complex health conditions and technology needs

Who can use MASSTART services?

- **Families** who have children with complex health issues and/or are assisted by medical technology (e.g. a child may use feeding tubes, tracheostomy, ventilator, oxygen, intravenous lines) or have chronic illness.
- **Health care providers**
- **School personnel**
- **Early intervention providers**
- **Community agencies**

What does MASSTART do?

MASSTART providers work collaboratively with families and school personnel to:

- Help the school team understand the special health care needs of the child
- Work with schools and families toward resolving the issues impacting the child's health needs in the school day.
- Train school personnel to meet the health care needs of individual children**.**
- Assist in the development of the child's individual health care plan and emergency plan for school.
- Provide educational programs about children with special health care needs in school.
- Provide information, referral, and community resources.

How can you obtain MASSTART services?
Contact one of the Regional MASSTART providers or the MA DPH's Community Support Line (CSL) for children with special health care needs at:
CSL:
specialhealthneeds@MassMail.State.MA.US
Phone: 1-800-882-1435
DCYSHN:
www.mass.gov/dph/specialhealthneeds

For program information contact:
1) Stefanie A. Hall
MASSTART Program Coordinator
Stefanie.A.Hall@mass.gov
Phone: 617-645-3856

2) Katja Gerhardt
DCYSHN Complex Care Director
Katja.Gerhardt@mass.gov
Phone: 781-223-2731

REGIONAL MASSTART PROVIDERS:

1) ***MetroWest & Greater Boston, Northeast Region, and Southeast Region***

Boston Children's Hospital (BCH)
Project School Care
300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115
Contacts:
Heather Engholm
Heather.Engholm@childrens.harvard.edu
Phone: 857-218-4331

Brooklyn Ryan
Brooklyn.Ryan@childrens.harvard.edu
Phone: 857-218-5800

2) ***Central and Western Regions***

Contact:
Elizabeth M. Dolan, CPN, BSN
Elizabeth.M.Dolan@mass.gov

English 7/16/26

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
DPH

Comments from families and school personnel who have used MASSTART services:

"MASSTART gave immediate attention when called upon."

"MASSTART really helped keep everyone focused as we plowed through each issue again and again."

"MASSTART went above and beyond to ensure that my son got the health and emergency care plans that he needed."

"MASSTART gave me another skilled individual to bounce my ideas off."

"MASSTART is dedicated to advocating for the health care needs of children."

