



First State School



## First State School

The First State School, located in Wilmington Hospital, is a K-12 program founded in 1985 for children with chronic illnesses that are not well controlled or are not easily managed in a typical school setting. We offer a unique collaboration between Christiana Care, the Delaware Department of Education through Red Clay School District, and Nemours Children's Hospital to appropriately meet our student's medical, academic, and psychological needs. Students are admitted to our school based on medical necessity which begins with a referral from their physician.

Children receive appropriate education with the added benefit of continuous skilled nursing; nursing also communicates and collaborates regularly with families and physicians. The medical and academic staff work closely to decrease missed class time while ensuring needs are met. Our goal is to educate and assist students and their families in learning how to manage their illnesses at home, in the community, and in a typical school setting while decreasing hospitalizations and Emergency Room visits with an ultimate objective of transitioning students back to traditional school. We offer an opportunity for chronically ill children to receive daily necessary medical care without missing out on learning or socialization.

Some of the diagnoses seen at the First State School include: diabetes, severe asthma, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell, cancer, hemophilia, von Willebrand, organ transplants, seizure disorders, and other illnesses that prevent school attendance. This is not a comprehensive list of illnesses FSS accepts.

Along with these diagnoses, some examples of procedures the nursing staff performs include medication administration, GT feeds, IV infusions, injections, factor administration, and nebulizer treatments. Our students with diabetes complete Q2H blood sugar checks while at school and all blood sugar checks and insulin injections are monitored.

For a maximum student population of 24, our staff consists of a medical director, program coordinator/APRN, 3 Christiana Care nurses, a recreational therapist (adaptive gym, art, and health), a licensed mental health counselor, 4 Red Clay teachers, Red Clay special education coordinator and one Red Clay psychologist. Weekly PT, OT, and speech therapy are available through onsite Christiana Care staff.

**We are currently taking referrals for the 2022-2023 school year (availability to start some students sooner) and have attached our Letter of Medical Necessity Template for your convenience. Referrals can be emailed to [EHouser@christianacare.org](mailto:EHouser@christianacare.org).**

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