

Transitions!

Many of you are aware that after nearly 10 years as SHIELD's Director, I plan to retire at the end of this calendar year.

I am pleased to announce we have hired Dr. Amy Dark, DNP, as SHIELD's new Director. Dr. Dark joins us from the National Association of School Nurses and brings extensive experience as both a school nurse and as a school nurse educator. Her vision for SHIELD promises exciting growth and expansion under her leadership.

The coming months will be a transitional period as Dr. Dark assumes leadership and I reduce my hours.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Dark!

Beverly Heinze-Lacey, MPH, BSN, RN
Transitional Director, SHIELD



Amy E. Dark, DNP, MSN-PH, BA, RN

Greetings School Nurse Colleagues,

Welcome back to a new school year! I am a proud school nurse and enjoy being part of this rewarding specialty area of nursing. I am delighted to join the SHIELD team and excited to use my knowledge and experiences as a school nurse, health educator, and school health leader to support evidence-based professional development and leadership programming for school nurses of the Commonwealth.

I look forward to working with you and meeting you at an upcoming virtual or in-person gathering soon!

Very best wishes for a rewarding school year ahead!

Amy
Incoming Director, School Health Institute for Education and Leadership Development (SHIELD)
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Professional Background:

Amy practiced school nursing in Rhode Island for 16 years. She served on the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) Board of Directors (2019-2024), Executive Committee (2021-2023), and chaired the NASN Ethics Committee. Most recently she served as a Nursing Education and Practice Specialist at NASN supporting professional development and education programming. She is a member of the Maine Association of School Nurses (MASN), Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and a certified K-12 health educator. Amy holds a BA and BSN from the University of Rhode Island, an MSN-PH with Public Health concentration from Rhode Island College, and a DNP focused on Quality Improvement and Leadership from the University of New Hampshire. She channeled her passion for school nursing, public health promotion, and vaccine advocacy through her DNP scholarly project which focused on the role of the school nurse in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine hesitancy.

Amy's most recent presentations include lead session presenter at NASN25, vaccine webinar presenter and panelist for the National Consumer League, CDC, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, and the Inaugural National HPV conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in April 2025.

Amy and her husband Irving are the proud parents of three adult children, and they enjoy exploring New England and beyond in their motorhome with their Welsh Corgi, Rhys.