NEA’s Health Information Network Celebrates 25 Years of Healthy, Safe Schools!

1987 NEA HIN opens its doors as a non-profit health organization and publishes *Responding to HIV and AIDS*. This work would become the basis for *The Red Book: Exposure to Blood and Bodily Fluids on the Job: What School Employees Need to Know*, HIN’s most popular resource for dealing with blood and fluids in school.

1988 HIN receives its first HIV/AIDS cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to focus on basic HIV/AIDS training for UniServ staff, the first of many partnerships with the CDC.

1989 When Ryan White, a 13-year-old public school student and hemophiliac, contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion and was banned from school, NEA members took action to stem the public hysteria over HIV/AIDS. Delegates at the 1986 Representative Assembly passed a New Business Item to disseminate information on the disease and ensure that no more children or educators would be discriminated against.

That action led to the formation of NEA’s Health Information Network (HIN), a non-profit organization promoting the health of public school students and educators. For 25 years, NEA HIN has risen to the challenges of the time, supporting school communities through disasters, shootings, and diseases, and working to ensure the health and physical wellbeing of all school members. For more information on NEA HIN, visit [www.neahin.org](http://www.neahin.org). Here’s a look back at that vital work.

1994 With a CDC grant, HIN launches a three-year project focusing on early detection and awareness of breast and cervical cancers.

2000 After the Columbine school shooting, HIN partners with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to create a teacher’s guide to addressing the mental health needs of school personnel coping with violence in schools.

2006 HIN creates the Disaster Relief Fund in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. NEA and its members raised $1.5 million in just two months, helping repair damaged schools, providing financial relief to displaced school employees, and establishing a disaster relief hotline for victims of natural disasters.

2009 HIN establishes the National C.L.E.A.N. Awards program to recognize the role school custodians play in maintaining the physical wellbeing of students and teachers.

2011 In partnership with the Food Research and Action Center, National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation, and the School Nutrition Foundation, NEA HIN helped launch the Breakfast in the Classroom program, a $5 million initiative that feeds 10,000 students breakfast in 83 schools.

2012 Working with the American Association of Health Education, the American School Health Association, and the Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education, NEA HIN helped finalize the first ever National Sexuality Education Standards.