Medicaid Reimbursement for School Health Services



April 2025

Federal Medicaid reimbursement can provide a sustainable source of funding to reinvest in the health and wellbeing of students.

Since 1988, Medicaid has reimbursed states for medical services provided in a school-based setting for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). In 2014, the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) clarified that states can also be reimbursed for eligible services provided to all Medicaid-enrolled students. On May 18, 2023, CMS released long-awaited new guidance that allows states to adopt changes to reduce the administrative burden for schools, making it easier to get Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services

But states must take action to take advantage of reduced red tape to receive federal funds.

The federal reimbursement depends on the state's federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) rate, but is never lower than 50%—or half the cost of any billable service. As a result, Medicaid billing can provide significant new revenue to support services.

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The Healthy School Campaign brief, "Financial Impact of Expanding School Medicaid," states:

"Expanding billing for more students means more federal revenue to the state and more district reimbursement. And since most schools already deliver some of these services (and pay for them with education dollars). bringing in federal reimbursement can replace scarce education money and help stretch resources further."

To learn more, contact: Jeff Taylor, Mayforth Group | jtaylor@mayforthgroup.com

State Implementation

Twenty-five states

have implemented Medicaid programs to cover school-based services:

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
 Tennessee

- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nevada
- New
 - Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Washington





After Louisiana began covering school nursing services in its Medicaid program, its financial analysis showed a 35% increase in federal revenue. The state then revised its school Medicaid plan to include all eligible providers and services.5



Michigan estimates an increase in \$14 million from billing for services delivered by school psychologists. a provider group that previously was unable to bill Medicaid.6



North Carolina's expansion allows districts to access reimbursement for a wide range of services, leading to a 35% increase yearover-year in Medicaid reimbursements.

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Federal School Medicaid Reimbursement





School-based mental health professional provides services.

LEA submits eligible charges to the State Medicaid Agency.*

Federal reimbursement is reinvested, typically in school-based services.



CMS provides the federal share of the reimbursement to the state.

State Medicaid Agency submits claims to Center for Medicaid Services (CMS).

*The process for how LEAs submit claims and are reimbursed by the State Medicaid Agency may vary by state.

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