

School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS)

SBHS overview

The Washington State School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS) program is an optional Medicaid program administered by the Health Care Authority (HCA). The SBHS program reimburses contracted school districts, educational service districts (ESDs), and charter and tribal schools for Medicaid covered health related services provided to Medicaid eligible students. In order to receive Medicaid reimbursement through this program, services must be included in the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). School-based IEP/IFSP health related services are carved out of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and are reimbursed fee-for-service.

Covered services

To receive reimbursement, covered services must be ordered or prescribed by a physician or other licensed provider, must be provided by or under the supervision of Department of Health licensed providers, and must be written in the child's IEP or IFSP. Covered services include and are limited to:

- Evaluations and reevaluations to determine if a student needs special education or early intervention health related services as part of the IEP or IFSP
- Health related services included in the child's IEP or IFSP, limited to:
 - Audiology services
 - Mental health services
 - Nursing/health services
 - Occupational therapy services
 - Physical therapy services
 - Speech-language therapy services

Provider qualifications

To receive Medicaid reimbursement through the SBHS program, services must be provided by or under the supervision of Department of Health (DOH) licensed providers. Providers may be school staff or contracted providers. Eligible providers include and are limited to:

- Advanced registered nurse practitioners
- Audiologists (including interim permit holders)
- Licensed mental health counselors
- Licensed mental health counselor associates
- Licensed practical nurses
- Licensed psychologists
- Licensed social workers
- Occupational therapists
- Occupational therapy assistants
- Physical therapists (including compact license holders)
- Physical therapy assistants
- Registered nurses
- Speech language pathologists (including interim permit holders)
- Speech language pathology assistants
- Nonlicensed individuals practicing under the supervision of a DOH-licensed provider

Benefits of SBHS program

Medicaid reimbursement allows school districts and ESDs to recover a portion of the costs incurred when providing health related services to special education students who are eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid reimbursements may be used to offset these costs by allowing districts to:

- Fully or partially fund school staff
- Purchase assistive technology
- Pay for professional development activities
- Other necessary expenses

