

Medicaid-funded school-based health care services and supports

There are several ways Medicaid dollars are used to support school-based health care. The following is a summary of key programs and information related to school-based health.

School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS) program

SBHS is an optional Medicaid program that reimburses contracted school districts (SDs), educational service districts (ESDs), charter and tribal schools for providing medically necessary services to Medicaid-eligible children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). To be reimbursable, services must be included in a student's IEP or IFSP and must be provided by or under the supervision of a Department of Health (DOH) licensed provider.

HCA contracts with approximately 200 school districts, 2 charter schools, and 4 ESDs for the SBHS Program and serves about 19,000 students annually at an annual cost of approximately \$11.5 million (50% GF-F/50% GF-S). SBHS-covered services include audiology, counseling services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language therapy, and nursing services. The services are carved out of the Medicaid managed care contracts and are reimbursed fee-for-service.

More information: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/sbhs>

Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) program

MAC is an optional Medicaid program that allows school districts and ESDs to receive federal reimbursement for administrative activities performed by school staff that support the goals of the [Medicaid State Plan](#). Examples of eligible activities include outreach and providing information about Medicaid programs and covered services to students and families, assisting individuals in applying for or accessing Medicaid-covered services, and referring students and families to health providers.

School district staff participate in a quarterly Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) to determine the amount of time they spend performing eligible administrative activities. The RMTS assigns "moments" to participants throughout the quarter. HCA contracts with 49 school districts for the MAC Program, at an annual cost of approximately \$3.6 million.

More information: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/programs-and-services/public-school-districts>

Medicaid Managed Care

School districts and ESDs can contract directly with the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) to receive reimbursement for providing Medicaid-covered health services not included in an IEP or IFSP. Examples of services that schools may receive reimbursement for include vision and hearing screenings, diabetes and asthma treatment for students with 504 plans, behavioral health services, immunizations, and any other non-IEP/IFSP Medicaid-covered health service.

As of May 2023, 7 out of the 9 ESDs and one school district are licensed behavioral health agencies and are contracted with the Medicaid MCOs. HCA provides technical assistance to interested ESDs/SDs and continues to partner with the MCOs and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to ensure all ESDs/SDs are able to contract with and bill the MCOs for non-IEP services if they wish to pursue this option.

More information: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/programs-and-services/managed-care>

School-Based Health Centers (SBHC)

School-based health centers (sometimes called school-based health clinics) are student-focused health centers located in or adjacent to a school where students can receive integrated medical, behavioral health, and other health care services. SBHCs are a partnership between the community, the school, and a health care sponsor, which can be a community clinic or health care system, hospital, public health department, or tribal program. SBHCs serve all students in the school, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Some may also serve other students in the district, students' families, school staff, and other community members. Most SBHC sponsors bill both Medicaid and private insurance for services. There are more than 50 SBHCs in Washington.

More information: <https://wasbha.org/>

Resources and cross-agency collaboration

Medicaid School-Based Behavioral Health Services and Billing Toolkit

As a result of the recommendations outlined in a 2021 SAO audit, HCA developed the [Medicaid School-Based Behavioral Health Services and Billing Toolkit](#). The purpose of the toolkit is to provide guidance on how ESDs and SDs can access Medicaid funding for non-IEP school-based behavioral health services through the Medicaid managed care organizations as well as through fee-for-service programs. The toolkit also provides behavioral health resources and supports, directions on how to become a behavioral health agency, and best practices for billing Medicaid. Although the toolkit is focused on reimbursement for behavioral health services, ESDs and districts may also be able to receive reimbursement for other non-IEP Medicaid-covered services provide in the school setting. ESDs/SDs are encouraged to discuss other covered services with the MCOs.

ESD Behavioral Health Navigators

[Second Substitute House Bill \(2SHB\) 1216 \(2019–20\)](#) funded Behavioral Health Coordinator/Navigator (BHN) positions in all nine of Washington's Educational Service Districts (ESDs) to provide a network of support for school districts to develop and implement comprehensive suicide prevention and behavioral health supports for students.

For more information about the program and current BHN contact information: [Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention, & Postvention | OSPI \(www.k12.wa.us\)](#)

Healthy Students, Promising Futures

In January 2017, HCA and OSPI established the Washington State Healthy Students, Promising Futures (HSPF) state team. The team was formed after HCA and OSPI attended the National HSPF Learning Collaborative along with 14 other states in 2016. The state team includes representatives from OSPI, HCA, DOH, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the School-Based Health Alliance, and Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools. The team attends the national forum biannually and meets quarterly. The goals of the HSPF state team include expanding access to school-based health services through the SBHS and MAC programs, the MCOs, and SBHCs. The goal of the National HSPF Learning Collaborative supports states and school districts in increasing access to school health services.

More information: <https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/healthy-students-promising-futures/>

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group (CYBHWG) provides recommendations to the Legislature to improve behavioral health services and strategies for children, youth, young adults, and their families. The group includes representatives from the Legislature, state agencies, health care providers, tribal governments, community health services, and other organizations, as well as parents of children and youth who have received

services. HCA's Assistant Directory for Behavioral Health and Recovery, Dr. Keri Waterland, is co-chair, along with Representative Lisa Callan.

More information: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/behavioral-health-recovery/children-and-youth-behavioral-health-work-group-cybhgw>