

Community Engagement Session Students & Families

Medicaid in Schools (Apple Health): Recommendations

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In partnership with:

Washington State
Health Care Authority



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Agenda

- Medicaid In Schools Workgroup
- Medicaid in Schools Current Program Overview
- Review and Discussion of Preliminary Recommendations
- Program Changes Impact
- Next steps

Medicaid In Schools Workgroup

Purpose: A cross-agency workgroup to identify barriers, propose solutions, and ensure WA's compliance with new CMS guidance.

- Representatives from state, local, community and legislative partners
- Improve student access to physical and behavioral health care services in the school setting without limitation of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Leverage new CMS Guidance to explore new opportunities that alleviate administrative burden
- Support school districts with tools, training and infrastructure to sustain critical funding for services provided.

Medicaid In Schools Current Program

Why Does Medicaid in Schools Program Matter?

1. Schools are a key service provider
2. School Based Health Services improve academic outcomes
3. Schools provide many critical services that extend beyond the IEP, including mental health and nursing services.
4. In addition, school-based health staff engage in indirect services that support access to Medicaid coverage and other services.
5. Medicaid is a critical funding source and supports sustainability of services in schools.

Medicaid In Schools Current Program (2)

#	Program Name	Services Covered	Current Participation	Current Medicaid Funding (FY23)
1	School Based Health Services	Health-related services per student's IEP	138 (or 42%) of 328 districts/ESDs	\$12.7M
2	Managed Care Organization (MCO) Plans	Health-related Services interventions – non-IEP	4 (or 1%) of 328 districts/ESDs	Not Available
3	Medicaid Administrative Claiming Program	Case management, care coordination, service planning	46 (or 14%) of the 328 districts/ESDs	\$2.5M

NOTE: *No Tribal Education Compact Schools or Charter Public Schools participate today*

Preliminary Recommendations

Focus Areas of Preliminary Recommendations

1. Expand Medicaid covered services
2. Extend Medicaid coverage for additional qualified providers
3. Streamline options for school districts to seek reimbursement
4. Provide training and technical assistance

Proposed Covered Services

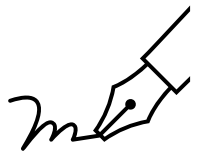
Service	Current Coverage	Proposed Coverage
Applied Behavior Analysis Services	Limited coverage – Per IEP only	Full Coverage
Assistive Technology		New Coverage
Audiology	Limited coverage – Per IEP only	Full Coverage
Behavioral Health Services	Limited coverage – Per IEP only	Full Coverage
Case Management	Limited coverage	Full Coverage
Nursing & Personal Care Services	Limited coverage – Per IEP only	Full Coverage
Nutrition Services		New Coverage
Occupational, Physical & Speech Therapy	Limited coverage – Per IEP only	Full Coverage
Prevention Services		New Coverage
Specialized Transportation		New Coverage
Substance Use Services		New Coverage
Vision Services		New Coverage

Proposed Covered Providers

Provider	Current Coverage	Proposed Coverage
Audiologists	✓	✓
Board/OSPI Certified Behavioral Analysts		✓
Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Associates, Psychologists and Social Workers	✓ (limited)	✓
OSPI Certificated Mental Health Counselors, Associates, Psychologists and Social Workers		✓
School Nurses (RN, APRN, LPN)	✓ (limited)	✓
Occupational Therapists & Assistants	✓	✓
Physical Therapists & Assistants	✓	✓
Speech Language Pathologists & Assistants	✓	✓
OSPI Certificated Speech Therapist		✓
Paraprofessionals practicing under supervision of licensed provider	✓	✓

Proposed Changes Impact

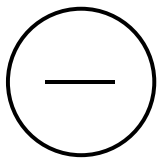
No Changes to Parental Consent Requirements



- Parental Consent is required for school districts to seek reimbursement from the student's Medicaid health insurance.



- The school district will provide a consent form, allowing the parent to make the choice to authorize Medicaid billing.



- A parent can withdraw consent at any time, and their decision will not impact their child's entitlement to services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Proposed Changes Impact (2)

No Changes to Confidentiality of Student Health Information

FERPA and HIPAA laws determine who can access student health information:

- With the parent's Medicaid billing consent, the Medicaid Agency can request access to view Medicaid related health records.
- Only school personnel who have “legitimate educational interests” can access a student's health records.

Proposed Changes Impact (3)

No Changes to Access to Services

School Services

A parent's decision regarding consent for Medicaid billing will not impact their child's entitlement to services.

There are no out-of-pocket costs for school-provided services.



Apple Health Benefits

School services have no impact to Medicaid benefits outside of school.

Key Takeaways



- Children and youth receive essential services directly in school.
- The availability of these services helps eliminate barriers to care.
- School-based Medicaid reimbursement provides funding to support services that are already being delivered in schools today.
- **Our goal:** optimize resources by utilizing federal Medicaid funds to sustain schools' ability to provide comprehensive educational services.

Discussion

Next Steps

Jan – Mar
2025

- Wrap up Community Engagement Sessions

Apr – Jun
2025

- Finalize Recommendations

Jun 2025 -
TBD

- State and CMS Approval

Jul 2025 –
Jun 2026

- Program Change Preparation

Jul 2026

- Gradual implementation

For more information

On Program Recommendations, contact
HCASBS@hca.wa.gov

Website:

<https://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/program-information-providers/school-based-services>

School-based services

Information and resources for health care services provided in the public school setting, including public school district Medicaid Administrative Claiming, public school-based health care services, and public schools contracting with managed care organizations.

On this page

[About school-based services](#)

[Public school districts Medicaid Administrative Claiming](#)

[School-based health care services](#)

[Schools contracting with managed care organizations](#)

[Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery \(DBHR\) school-based programs](#)

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing public K–12 education in Washington state. Working with the state's 295 public school districts, charter schools, and 6 state-tribal education compact schools, OSPI allocates funding and provides tools, resources, and technical assistance so every student in Washington is provided a high-quality public education.

[Learn more about Washington school districts](#)

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Glossary

- **Medicaid:** Health coverage/insurance also know as Apple Health in Washington State
- **CMS:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- **IEP:** Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- **Billing:** Submission of medical service claims to Medicaid/Apple Health for reimbursement, often referred to as Fee-for-Service (FFS)
- **Reimbursement:** Payment of medical service claims or eligible health care costs.

Glossary (2)

- **Managed Care Organization (MCO):** Private insurance coverage for eligible Apple Health members focused on integrated care with goal to reduce costs and improve quality of care.