

Primer for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) Handout



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) Technical Assistance Center is available to support State Medicaid agencies (SMAs), State educational agencies (SEAs), and local education agencies (LEAs) in operationalizing Medicaid SBS. Contact us at SchoolBasedServices@cms.hhs.gov.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) established this TAC to perform the following:

- ▶ Assist and expand the capacity of SMAs, SEAs, LEAs, and school-based entities to provide services under Medicaid.
- ▶ Reduce administrative burdens for such agencies and health centers or entities.
- ▶ Support SEAs, LEAs, and school-based entities in obtaining payment for the provision of assistance under Medicaid.
- ▶ Ensure ongoing coordination and collaboration between the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) with respect to the provision of and payment for assistance under Medicaid by LEAs.
- ▶ Provide information to States and LEAs on how to utilize funding.

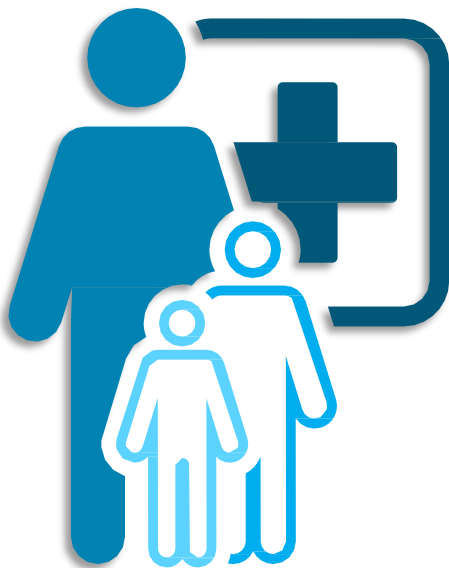


This resource will discuss LEAs' work for the following:

- ▶ Understanding the Basics of Medicaid SBS.
- ▶ Facilitating Greater Access to Medicaid SBS.
- ▶ Ways LEAs Can Promote Access to Medicaid SBS.



Understanding the Basics of Medicaid SBS



Medicaid Overview

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide health coverage to more than half of American children (~40 million). Children may be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP based on the following:

- ▶ Household income.
- ▶ Unique health needs (e.g., disability).
- ▶ Foster care status.

Medicaid and CHIP are funded through a combination of Federal and State funds. States are responsible for administering their own unique Medicaid programs.

Why Is Medicaid SBS Important to LEAs?

Medicaid services can be provided to students in school-based settings. The school setting is ideal for the following reasons:

- ▶ Offers a unique opportunity to enroll eligible students in Medicaid or CHIP.
- ▶ Facilitates access to coverage.
- ▶ Provides health services directly to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries who are students.
- ▶ Provides an opportunity to meet students where they are and to deliver services where children spend most of their time each week.
- ▶ Can compensate school providers serving students, lessening the need to use general education dollars.

LEAs can receive reimbursement from Medicaid for health-related services on a child's individualized education program (IEP).



Providing SBS can achieve the following:

- ▶ Be a sustainable source of Federal funding for Medicaid-enrolled children to access healthcare services within a school setting.
- ▶ Enhance identification of health needs and can connect students to a broad range of healthcare services—including mental health and substance use disorder services—in the community.
- ▶ Allow children to obtain primary and preventive services and other necessary treatment services.
- ▶ Expand the number of children who access Medicaid and CHIP.

State Medicaid Structure

SMA

- ▶ Administer and supervise the State Medicaid plan, Time Study Implementation Plan, Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan, etc.
- ▶ Develop Medicaid policies and determine what services are covered under Medicaid within the State.
- ▶ Determine SBS billing arrangements.

SEA

- ▶ Administer State-level policies and provide oversight to LEAs.
- ▶ Provide education and assistance to LEAs.
- ▶ Provide State funding to LEAs and subgrant Federal funds to LEAs, including IDEA subgrants.

LEA

- ▶ Ensure that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is available to each eligible child.
- ▶ Provide increased access to comprehensive SBS.
- ▶ Implement SMA and SEA policies, Medicaid SBS procedural billing, and documentation.



Facilitating Greater Access to Medicaid SBS

Medicaid and CHIP programs are intended to provide healthcare or funding to support services to students and children in need. For LEAs specifically, this is accomplished through the following:

What LEAs Can Do to Support Student Access to Medicaid SBS



Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Benefit

- ▶ Ensure proper student identification for EPSDT benefits.
- ▶ Identify plan for service provision (who, what, when, why, and how).

Review: [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment | Medicaid](#)



Funding special education and related services included within Medicaid to children with disabilities through a child's IEP

- ▶ Understand how SBS works in your State.
- ▶ Develop systems to compile necessary data to submit claims.
- ▶ Obtain parental consents and inform parents of their rights when accessing



Promoting mental healthcare

- ▶ Identify current mental health service needs.
- ▶ Secure mental health provider access for students.
- ▶ Develop a plan to address mental health crises and needs.

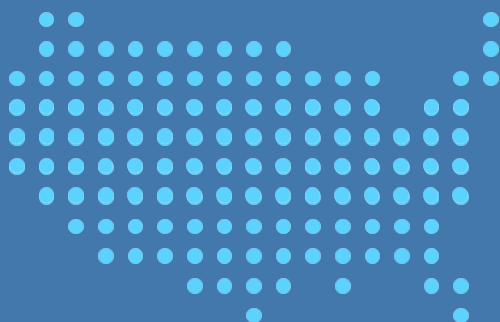


Addressing health equity

- ▶ Establish protocols for periodic Medicaid outreach and enrollment activities.
- ▶ Increase access to healthcare by addressing social determinants of health and other social issues.
- ▶ Develop partnerships to expand access.



Ways LEAs Can Promote Access to Medicaid SBS



The path to getting started can look different across States, depending on the State's status in Medicaid SBS expansion.

While States take formal action to implement or align their State Medicaid plans (if necessary), it is important to note that LEAs do not have to implement every service in the State plan and can decide which services to implement.

Path Forward for LEAs in States Without Medicaid SBS Expansion

LEAs provide services to ensure that FAPE is provided and can work to increase the number of LEAs participating in the State's existing SBS program.

Understand your State's expansion for SBS.

Identify existing LEA partnerships.

Identify service delivery models used in your State.



LEAs Getting More Involved in Medicaid SBS Expansion

▶ Support SMAs and SEAs in the development of the Comprehensive Review and Analysis:

- ▶ Share data of what is happening in schools.
 - ▶ What services are being delivered.
 - ▶ What provider types are working in schools.
 - ▶ How student health needs are being accessed and identified.

▶ Actively engage in the work:

- ▶ Attend and participate in State-led forums, committees, trainings, office hours, and other collaborative meetings and events.

▶ Promote learning and disseminate understanding:

- ▶ Engage fully in opportunities to inform and educate State leadership on what is happening in your schools.
- ▶ Connect with national/regional/local advocacy groups.
- ▶ Seek opportunities to continue to learn more and educate yourselves on the issues and Medicaid SBS.

▶ Engage with the CMS/ED joint TAC!



Additional Resources and Examples

Delivering Services in School-Based Setting:
A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid
Services and Administrative Claiming



<https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/sbs-guide-medicaid-services-administrative-claiming-ud.pdf>

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic,
and Treatment | Medicaid



<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html>