

Medicaid School Based Services Information and Answers for Families

Why are schools receiving Medicaid reimbursement?

Public schools can receive Medicaid reimbursement for medically necessary services that address physical, mental, and emotional health for eligible students. School districts optimize the use of financial resources by submitting claims when possible.

What can schools submit Medicaid claims for?

Schools can only submit claims for medically related services outlined in the student's plan of care. In general, claimable services for a school district include: audiologist services, evaluation and testing, nursing services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, psychological services, and social work services.

How do schools use the money they receive from Medicaid?

Money that school districts receive is applied to that system's general fund and can be used as that local school district determines.

Do schools need parental consent to submit Medicaid claims?

Yes. Schools are required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to obtain parent consent before disclosing information about a student. This includes providing information to Medicaid. Parental Consent Annual Notification is provided to families via the Special Education Parent Handbook or a locally developed consent to treat form. Families have the right to refuse consent to bill the state Medicaid system, and the right to revoke consent in writing at any time.

Will my school bill my private insurance as well?

Because there could be a cost incurred by the family, schools do not bill private insurance for related services.

Will Medicaid services my family receives outside of school be affected?

No. Medicaid services received outside of school and school based service claims as part of the student's plan of care are authorized separately.

There are a wide variety of reasons claims may be denied. If outside services have been affected, families are encouraged to contact the source of the denied claim to verify the reason.

If the reason cited is duplicate service, please reach out to Muskegon Area Intermediate School District's project specialists at 231-767-7224 or 231-767-7253 with the specific claim information including student's name, date of service, and school district. They can follow-up with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services School Based Service policy specialist if further assistance is requested.

Could students receive BOTH school based and other therapy services?

Students have access to services available in both outpatient and school-based treatment settings. If treatment is provided in both settings, the goals and purpose for the two must be distinct. School based services are provided to assist a student to benefit from education. Outpatient services are provided to optimize the patient's functional performance in relation to needs in the home or community setting and must not duplicate those provided in the school setting. Collaboration between the school and the community providers is mandated to coordinate treatment and to prevent duplication of services. [Michigan Department](#)

The goal of informing the primary care provider and any outside therapy providers is to coordinate treatment and to prevent duplication of services. All services are provided with the expectation that the student's primary care provider, and if applicable, the student's case manager (teacher) are informed on a regular basis.

Permission to share must be obtained before providing or requesting information from the primary care provider and/or any outside agency.

Does this process impact the school services my child will receive?

No. Schools provide services even if the school cannot submit Medicaid claims.

Where can I get more information about this?

Your local school district's special education office or the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District are available to provide more information on how schools receiving Medicaid reimbursement impacts students.

Additional Sources of Information include:

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/medicaid>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/medicaid/portalhome/beneficiaries/apply>

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services—County Offices:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/county-offices>

Muskegon County—231-733-3700

Oceana County—231-873-7251

Ottawa County—616-394-7200

Newaygo County—231-689-5500

Kent County—616-248-1000

Muskegon Area Intermediate School District:

<https://www.muskegonisd.org/specialed/medicaid/>

Medicaid/SE Project Specialist—231-767-7224

Medicaid/GE Project Specialist—231-767-7253