School Funding and the Illinois Healthy Student State Plan Amendment (SPA)

How the Illinois Healthy Student SPA Can Increase Funding for School Health Services & Improve Student Health

Informational Briefing
January 14, 2021
Welcome!

- Poll Question 1: Tell us who you are.
- Poll Question 2: If you're from a school or school district, what size is your school district?
- Poll Question 3: If you're from a school or school district, where is your school district located?
Thank you!

Center for Childhood Resilience at Lurie Children’s Hospital
Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools
Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education
Illinois School Counselor Association
Illinois School Nurse Association Leaders
Illinois Association of School Social Workers
Youth Guidance
Housekeeping

● Use the questions section of your control panel to ask questions or communicate technical issues

● Please ask questions throughout the webinar. We will save the second half of the webinar for Q&A.

● The webinar is being recorded. The slides and recording will be sent out following the webinar.
Agenda

I. What is the IL Healthy Student State Plan Amendment (SPA) Opportunity?

II. Discussion

III. Next Steps
The Opportunity

A recent change in federal policy presents a new opportunity to expand school-based services under Medicaid.

In 2014, CMS reversed long-standing policy and gave states the option to obtain federal Medicaid reimbursement for services provided to all Medicaid-enrolled students in schools.

Medicaid reimbursement no longer tied to Individualized Education Program.
13 states are benefiting from expanding school-based medicaid billing.

Illinois is not!
How Has This Helped Other States

**Louisiana:** Expanded its school Medicaid program in 2015 for school nursing services only. Data showed a 35% increase in Medicaid revenue, leading Louisiana to submit a second SPA (approved in 2020) to expand the program to include all eligible providers and services.

**Colorado:** Conducted a pilot study to better understand the financial impact of expanding its school Medicaid program and determined that adding school psychologists to eligible provider types would result in $12 million in new federal Medicaid funds. SPA approved in 2020.

**Michigan:** Estimates an increase in $14 million from adding school psychologists, a provider group that previously was not able to bill Medicaid. Michigan also added many other health providers and expanded billing to include all medically necessary services. SPA approved 2019.

**HELPFUL HINT:** Michigan and Illinois are in the same CMS region, so the same office that approved Michigan’s SPA will review the Illinois’ SPA.
Solution: Illinois Healthy Student SPA

Who needs to take action?
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)

What does HFS need to do?
Submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

What changes should the SPA include?
- Allow billing for all medically necessary services (per Medicaid’s EPSDT benefit).
- Allow billing for all eligible health service providers.
Benefits of Expanding School Health Services in Illinois

- Provides sustainable revenue for schools
- Expands eligible health services
- Expands the types of allowable service providers who can bill
- Improves access to health services
- Reduces health disparities
- Boosts student attendance
- Improves academic outcomes
Other things to know

- This is not a mandate! School districts are not required to participate.
- School districts can get reimbursed for qualifying services they are already delivering.
- School districts will have the resources to expand services to meet unmet physical and mental health needs.
- Billing can be retroactive to when the SPA is submitted.
- HSC and other partners are available to support implementation.
Key questions

- What services are delivered in your school(s) that are not Medicaid eligible?
- Who delivers services in your school(s) and is not Medicaid eligible?
Which school health services are Medicaid eligible?

- Audiology services
- Developmental assessments
- Hearing screening
- Medicaid equipment
- Medical services
- Medical supplies
- Nursing services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- School health aide
- Social work services
- Speech/language services
- Transportation
- Vision screening
What type of health professionals deliver school health services and are allowed to bill Medicaid?

School Nurse*
School Psychologist (& psychologist interns)*
School Social Worker (& SSW interns)*
Audiologist**
Clinical Psychologist**
Registered Nurse**
Licensed Practical Nurse (under supervision)**
Occupational Therapist**
Occupational Therapist Assistant (under supervision)**
Physical Therapist**
Physical Therapist Assistant (under supervision)**
Medical Social Worker (ie., LCSW)**
Speech/Language Pathologist (& SLP interns)**
Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant (under supervision)**
Vision & Hearing Screening Technicians***
School Health Aide (under supervision)

*Providers licensed by Illinois State Board of Education
**Providers licensed by Illinois Department of Professional Regulations
***Providers certified by Illinois Department of Public Health
Poll Question

If the state expands their school Medicaid program, is your school district likely to leverage this opportunity?
Next Steps

- Complete survey sent by Healthy Schools Campaign
- Participate in local learning collaboratives
- Serve as champions for the Illinois Healthy Student SPA
For more information

Visit: healthyschoolscampaign.org/illinois-school-health-services

- Illinois Policy Brief: Schools Are Key to Improving Children’s Health: How Illinois Can Leverage Medicaid Funds to Expand School Health Services
- Letter to Governor Pritzker signed by 53 health service providers, hospitals, and health and education advocacy, philanthropy and community-based organizations.
- Support letter from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois
Stay in touch!

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For more information:
healthyschoolscampaign.org/illinois-school-health-services