Icebreaker

In the Chat Box:

- Introduce yourself (name, role, and organization) and share your school district mascot
Welcome!
Housekeeping

Presentation is being recorded for those who cannot attend

Participants are muted to ensure audio quality

Submit questions using the Q&A feature
Update on School Medicaid Expansion in Illinois

Briefing
April 14, 2022
Objectives

• Provide a status update of the Illinois state plan amendment and how it will affect school districts and Medicaid billing.
• Highlight important benefits of expanding school health services in Illinois
• Answer questions and offer resources and opportunities
Potential Impact

- Increased sustainable revenue/reimbursement for schools
- Expansion of allowable health services and service providers
- An increase in students served and services provided
- Improved access to care for Medicaid-enrolled children
- Reductions in overall health care costs
- Improved academic outcomes
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 expanding the program and adding additional provider types, including school psychologists, 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.

**North Carolina:** North Carolina’s expansion allows districts to access reimbursement for a wide range of services. They saw a 35% increase year-over-year in Medicaid reimbursements with no financial outlay for the state Medicaid agency. SPA approved in 2019.
Expansion of Illinois’ School Medicaid Program
The Opportunity

• Historically, Medicaid would only pay for health services included in the IEPs of students enrolled in Medicaid

• A 2014 change in federal policy is an opportunity to expand school-based services to ALL Medicaid-enrolled students
  • This is known as the free care policy reversal
Illinois State Plan Amendment

- Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services submitted a Medicaid state plan amendment on September 30 to expand the state’s school Medicaid program to all medically necessary services (per Medicaid’s EPSDT benefit).
- The need for services must be documented as “medically necessary” in an individual health plan, which may be an IEP/IFSP, OR a doctor’s order, OR a 504 Plan, OR any other plan of care that meets criteria set by HFS.
- Once approved, retroactive to July 1, 2021.
What services are Medicaid eligible in Illinois?

- Speech Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Nursing Services
- School Health Aides
- Hearing and Vision Screening
- Orientation and Mobility*

- Social Worker Services
- Psychological Services
- Counseling Services
- Audiology Services
- Specialized Transportation
- Developmental Assessments
- Applied Behavioral Analysis Services*

*new services added in SPA
Medicaid eligible school health providers

- School health providers previously providing services under IEPs/IFSPs will still be able to bill for these services in addition to eligible services delivered to general education students.
- New Medicaid eligible school health providers added for both IEP/IFSP and general education students
  - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
  - Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPCs)
  - Licensed Clinical Psychologists (LCPs)
  - Orientation and Mobility Specialists
  - Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) – in Medicaid, actually required to be a licensed clinical psychologist or a licensed clinical social worker
  - Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs)
- Services delivered by new provider types and services delivered to general education students cannot be billed until after the SPA is approved. School districts can continue billing for IEP/IFSP services delivered by existing provider types.
Cost settlement

- New cost settlement process has been instituted
  - Designed to reimburse each LEA for the true/complete costs of providing services to Medicaid-enrolled students in both the general and the special education populations.
- Once SPA is approved, all costs of providing services by qualified practitioners will be reimbursed in the annual cost settlement process for costs dating back to 7/1/2021
Questions?
Medicaid Expansion for School Health (MESH) Learning Collaborative Overview
Objectives

By the end of the collaborative, you will be able to:

• Develop a comprehensive plan for securing Medicaid reimbursement and expanding school health services in your district
• Implement effective strategies to bill Medicaid for eligible school health services
• Leverage partnerships and funding from Medicaid and other sources to expand health services for your students
Learning Collaborative Model

- Peer learning
- Team approach
- Systems focus
District teams

**Required** - staff from the areas of:
- School health services, behavioral health, and/or wellness
- Special education
- Finance and/or billing vendor
- District administration
- You may substitute other roles as needed

**Recommended** - other partners:
- Parent
- Student
- Collaborating agencies/providers
- Other staff
Supports

- 3-4 trainings per school year (3 virtual trainings, 2 hours in length, with possibility of 1 in-person training)
- 3-4 group calls per school year (1 hour each) to facilitate peer sharing and networking with other districts
- Resources, implementation tools, and newsletter with updates and tips
- Individualized assistance with questions and challenges
Examples of Potential Topics

Capacity-building:
• Identifying needs and assets
• Developing a plan for implementing changes

Medicaid and health services topics:
• Documenting medical necessity
• Enrolling students in Medicaid
• School-based mental health models
Maximize reimbursement under previous rules

Capture newly-allowed providers and services with IEP students

Expand to all Medicaid-enrolled students

Ensure all eligible students are enrolled in Medicaid

Invest in student health and wellness

- Maintain strong health services and behavioral health infrastructure
- Connect with broader healthcare system
Eligibility

- Public school district in Illinois
- Approval from district leadership
- Members of district team identified
- Ready to actively leverage the training and support provided by the collaborative to expand school health services
Commitment

• Participate for 2 years
• All team members consistently attend trainings, group calls, and other events
• Develop and implement an action plan
• Meet as a team on a regular basis
• Complete an annual progress report
Advisory Committee Members

• EverThrive Illinois
• Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education
• Illinois Association of School Business Officials
• Illinois Association of School Nurses
• Illinois School Counselor Association
• Illinois School Psychologists Association
• National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter
Thank you!

Applications Due May 6

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https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/call-for-applications-medicaid-expansion/
Information and Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions About the Illinois State Plan Amendment
- Medicaid Expansion for School Health (MESH) Learning Collaborative
- How Illinois Can Leverage Medicaid Funds to Expand School Health Services
- Guide to Expanding Medicaid Funded School Health Services
From HFS and ISBE

- **HFS School Based Health Services Website**
- **PCG contact info:**
  - (833) 976-1847 (available M-F, 8-5 CT)
  - ilmac@pcgclaimingsystem.zendesk.com

Coming soon:

- FAQs on Illinois School-Based Health Services Program Changes
- **ISBE School Health Website**