Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

School Medicaid Matters Webinar Series
April 2023

HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN

In partnership with

Thank you to our funders: American Academy of Pediatrics, Kaiser Permanente, School Health Corporation, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

Healthy Schools Campaign

- Work at the intersection of education, health and equity
- Chicago focused, nationally minded
- Focus on policy and systems level change, cross-sector collaboration
- Leader in supporting sustainable funding for school health services, including Medicaid

Housekeeping

Webinar is being recorded and will be posted on our website

Ask questions using the Q&A feature; we will have open Q&A at the end

Agenda and Speakers

- **Highlights from Previous Webinars and "Free Care" Opportunity**
- **School Medicaid and Federal Momentum**
  - Margaux Johnson-Green, Georgetown Center for Children and Families
- **Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid**
  - Orla Kennedy, Community Catalyst
- **State Perspectives**
  - Becky Hudock, Georgia Appleseed
  - Maredeth Teamer, Evanston/ Skokie District 65, Illinois
- **Panel Discussion with Speakers**
- **Q&A**

School Medicaid Matters Webinar Series

- Webinar #1 Momentum for Expanding School Medicaid in 2023
  - February 9

- Webinar #2 Today: Using Medicaid to Fund School Health Services
  - March 2

Webinar #3 Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid
TODAY

Webinar #1 Highlights

- Elevated role of schools in addressing student health and wellbeing
- Historic federal opportunities, policies and investments to expand mental health services in schools

Snapshot:

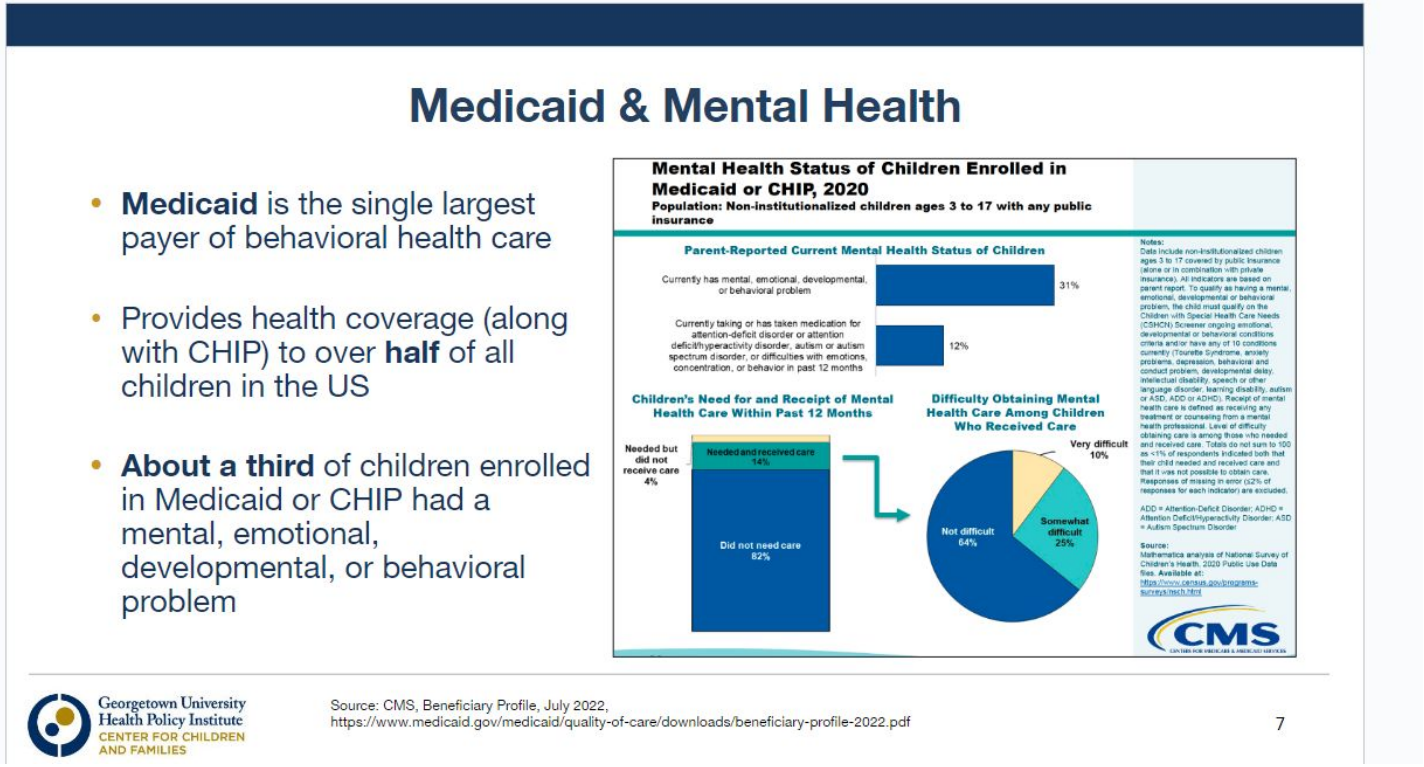
- Continue to face a youth mental health and substance use crisis.
- Youth overdose deaths rising faster than the adult population
- Suicide is among the top three leading causes of death for youth and adolescents age 10-24
- Just 20 percent of children with behavioral health needs are able to get care from a mental health provider.
- COVID is increasing the need, affecting LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth most.

Adolescence is a critical time for preventing and treating mental illness and substance use disorders, and youth are more likely to access services and complete treatment in schools.

COMMUNITY CATALYST

Webinar #2 Highlights

- Critical role of Medicaid and CHIP in children's behavioral health coverage
- States are leveraging Medicaid funds to expand school health services in different ways



Examples of States Leveraging Medicaid

New Mexico: Cross-agency collaboration and planning is key; consider timing and communications when preparing to expand services

Michigan: Expanding school Medicaid increased school nurses and behavioral health providers; approximately $25 million in new federal funding

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

Models for Delivering Health Services in Schools

Community Partnerships

School-Based Health Centers

School-Employed Providers

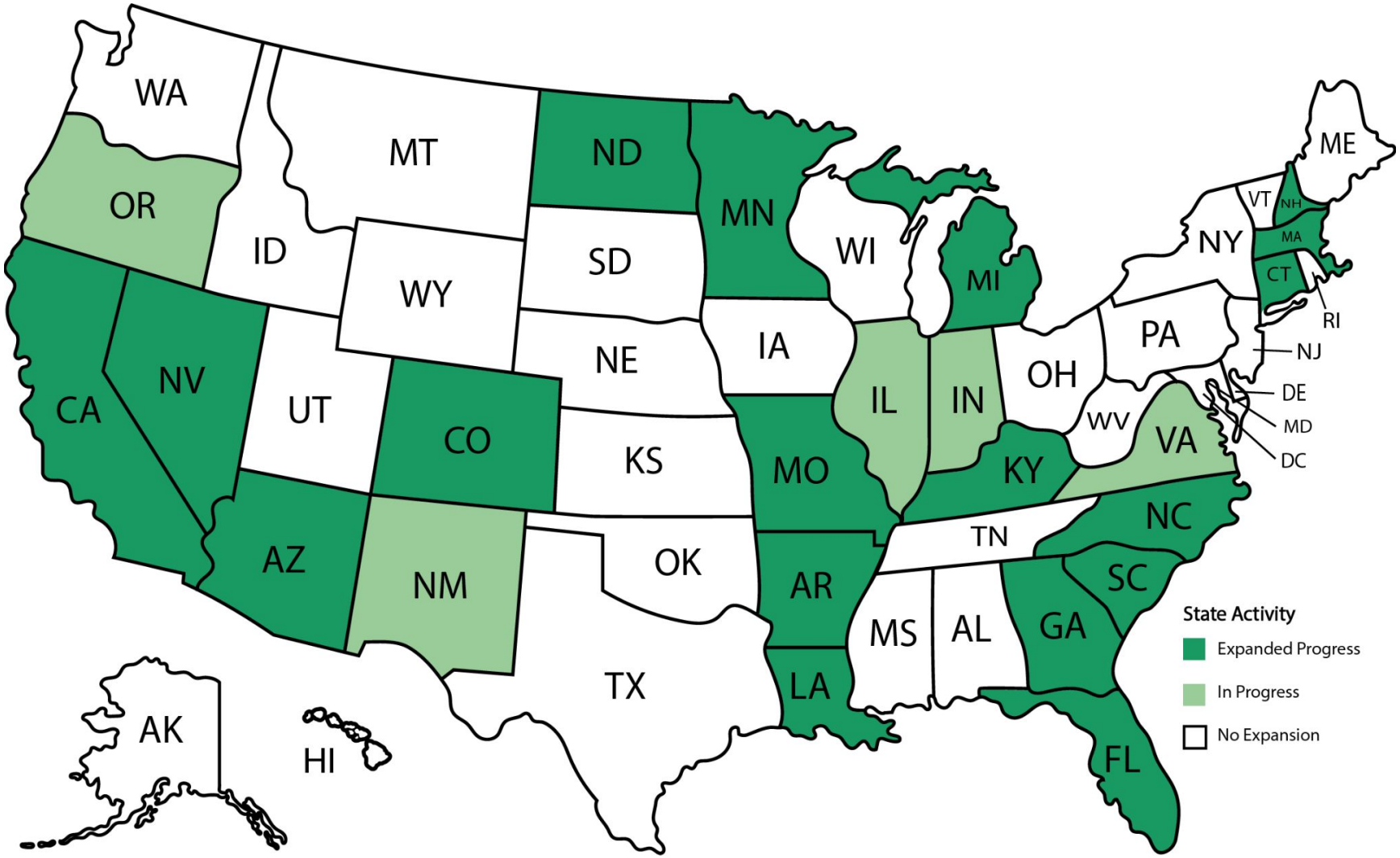
Expanding School Medicaid

- Medicaid will reimburse for services to all Medicaid-enrolled students
- States make the choice to expand school-based Medicaid programs
- Some states must submit a Medicaid state plan amendment (SPA) to expand their program to all students; others can take state administrative or legislative actions

Opportunities Under "Free Care"

- Increase funding for school-based health services
- Cover more services and provider types eligible for reimbursement in schools
- Schools and health care can work together on program decisions to improve outcomes

Expansion of School-Based Medicaid Programs



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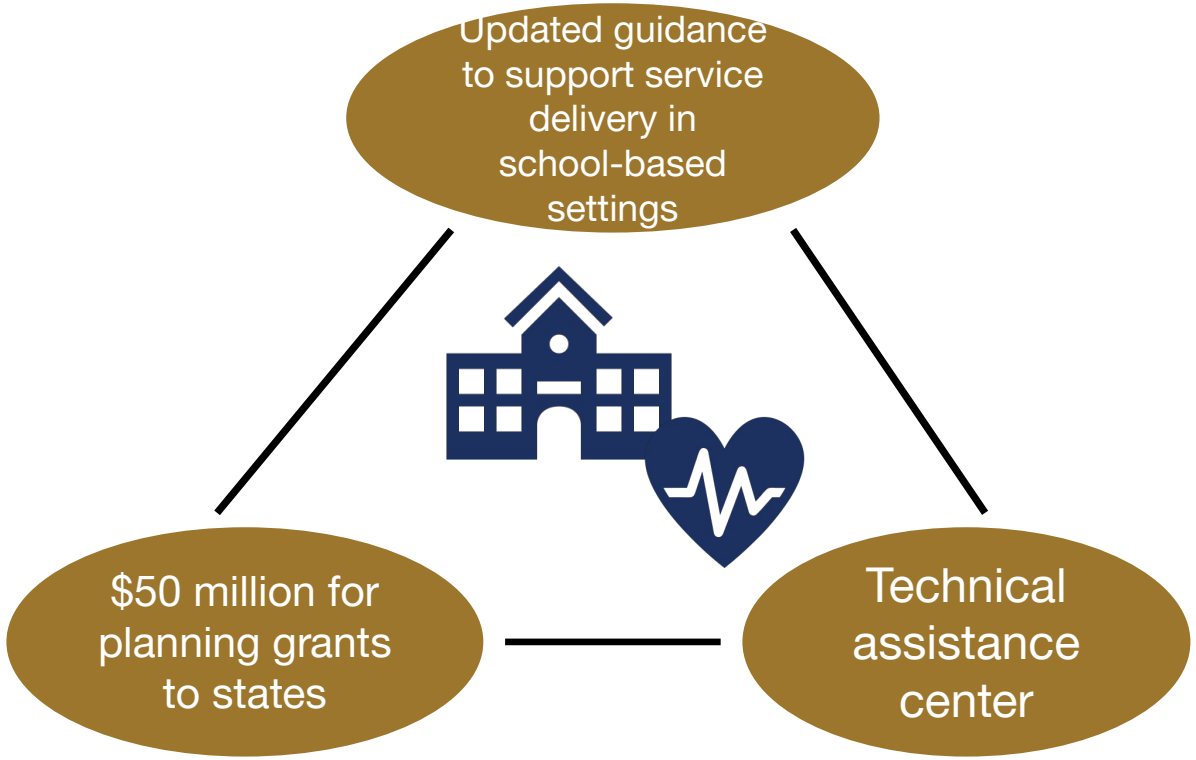
The School Medicaid "Moment"



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
CENTER FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES

CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: August 18, 2022

FROM: Daniel Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

SUBJECT: Information on School-Based Services in Medicaid: Funding, Documentation and Expanding Services.

School-based services (SBS), which are Medicaid-coverable services provided to children and adolescents in a school setting, play an important role in the health and well-being of children and adolescents, particularly for those enrolled in the Medicaid program. The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) is a Medicaid benefit that mandates coverage of services described in section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act (the Act), which include a range of services including medical, dental, personal care, and long-term services and supports, regardless of whether the particular services are covered under the state plan. [1]

Although schools are primarily providers of education, the school setting provides a unique opportunity to enroll eligible children and adolescents in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), furnish Medicaid-covered services, including behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services) to eligible children, and help children who are enrolled in Medicaid access the services they need. Schools are uniquely positioned to increase health equity and to help ensure that all children have access to necessary health care services. This includes services provided through a formal Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or other plan and services provided outside of those plans

https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sbscib081820222.pdf

Unwinding

- March 31: End of continuous coverage provision
- States have until May 2024 to check eligibility for 83.5 million people, including 34.2 million children
- An estimated 6.7 million children at risk of losing coverage, and uninsured rate could double

"Child Uninsured Rate Could Rise Sharply if States Don't Proceed with Caution," Joan Alker and Aubrianna Osorio, CCF, February 2023, available at: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2023/02/01/child-uninsured-rate-could-rise-sharply-if-states-dont-take-care/

Resources to Ready for the Moment

- 50-state unwinding tracker
- CCF unwinding landing page
- Unwinding communications toolkit for schools and educators
- CCF's Consolidated Appropriations Act brief
- Data on Medicaid/CHIP coverage by school district

Community Catalyst

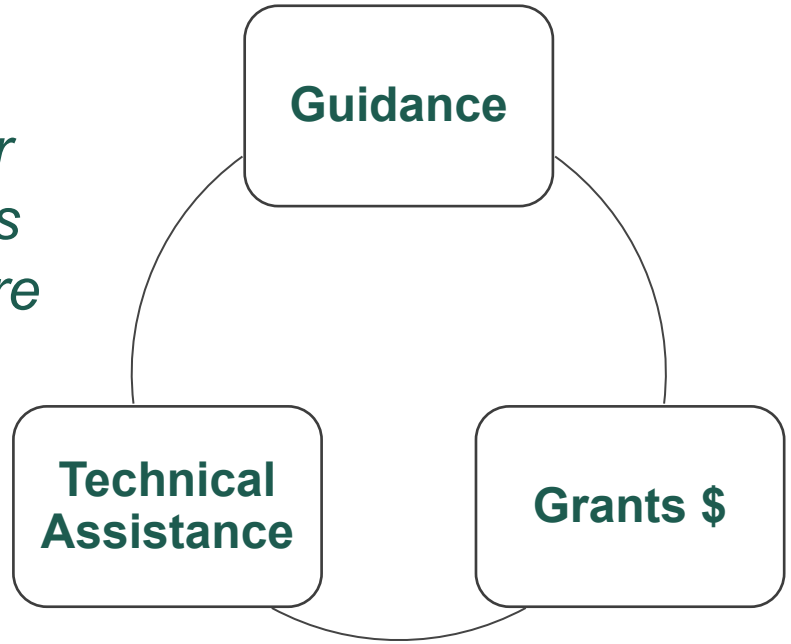
We’re a national organization dedicated to building the power of people to create a health system rooted in race equity and health justice and a society where health is a right for all. Together with partners, we’re building a powerful, united movement with a shared vision of and strategy for a health system accountable to all people.

Aracely
Storyteller and advocate

Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

As we've heard…

Guidance, grant announcements, and technical assistance for strengthening school-based health services are coming, so it's time for state health advocates to lay the groundwork to ensure youth in their states benefit fully.



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How can advocates across the country leverage this moment to improve student health?

Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

Strategy: Like any school health improvement and sustainability efforts, engage stakeholders.

- ❑ **Build your advocacy network and your power.** Start engaging a coalition of relevant stakeholders who can help make the case for comprehensive expansion of school-based health services.
- ❑ We recommend including: **youth**, school-based providers, teachers, parents, child advocates, mental health advocates, substance use disorders advocates, education and special education advocates, and others from across your state who care about young people and their needs.

Consider engaging youth advisory councils and involving youth in all phases of programming, from ideation to implementation

Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

In the words of Community Catalyst's Youth Advisory Board…

"Schools can play an important role in connecting youth to needed services. ***Yet, when it comes to youth mental illness and substance misuse, too many schools are punishing students who actually need support. We can no longer tolerate an education system that punishes students - and particularly students of color - for behaviors that are often rooted in toxic stress, trauma, and mental illness. We need compassionate educators who see us as whole people (not just a statistic), and who understand how experiences of trauma and oppression can impact our ability to learn in the classroom.*** *We need drug education programs rooted in harm reduction, that offer honest information so youth can make informed decisions about their health.* ***We need school programs that lift students up, and normalize talking about mental health and substance misuse.*** *We need restorative justice programs that teach us how to move through conflict, and ways to access help without having authority figures involved."*

– Community Catalyst's Youth Advisory Board

Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

Strategy: Determine what improvements are needed in school-based behavioral health care in your state/district/local environment

- ❑ Does your state allow Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services for all Medicaid enrolled youth?
- ❑ Who is delivering services in schools and not currently getting reimbursed by Medicaid, but could be?
- ❑ What health services are not being provided in schools to all Medicaid enrolled children, but could be?

Promote enrolling and retaining eligible young people in Medicaid, CHIP, or a Marketplace plan, so that young people have health coverage that includes mental health services (outreach resources)

Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

Strategy: Start engaging your state Medicaid agencies + state departments of education now:

- ❑ Make sure they know about the August 2023 guidance and that federal grants are coming in 2023 -- it's time to get ready!
  - ✔August 2022 CMS guidance encouraging states to strengthen their school-based Medicaid programs
- ❑ Identify and engage with the state officials who specifically work on school Medicaid policy

Organizing for Student Health and School Medicaid

To Learn More:

For Advocates:
Advocacy Tool: Help School-Age Youth Get the Behavioral Health Care They Need

For LEAs and SEAs/others interested in financing:
Financing Opportunities to Boost Mental Health Services in Schools in 2023: The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

Thank you

Community Catalyst

GEORGIA APPLESEED SCHOOL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Justice At Our Core Since 2005

- School Climate Reform
  - School Justice Partnerships and Student Climate and Attendance Committees
- School Discipline and PBIS
- FAIR project
- School Based Behavioral Health Services
  - Reduce barriers to access
  - Comprehensive School Based Behavioral Health services can improve school climate, reduce rates of incidents that lead to discipline, and can improve attendance.

SBBH COLLABORATIVE DIGITAL RESOURCES

THE CARTER CENTER

Community Engagement Guides on Prevention and Early Intervention in School-Based Behavioral Health

- Schools, parents, caregivers, community members
- Funders and Philanthropists

GEORGIA APPLESEED™
Center for Law & Justice

Legal Guides

- Certified Peer Specialists and Schools
- Establishing a School-Based Behavioral Health Program

Voices for Georgia's Children

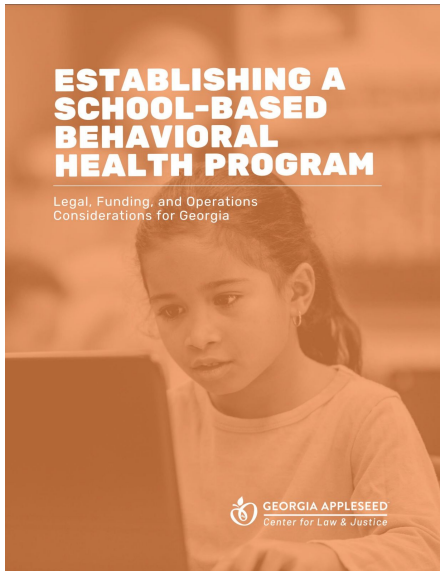
Awareness

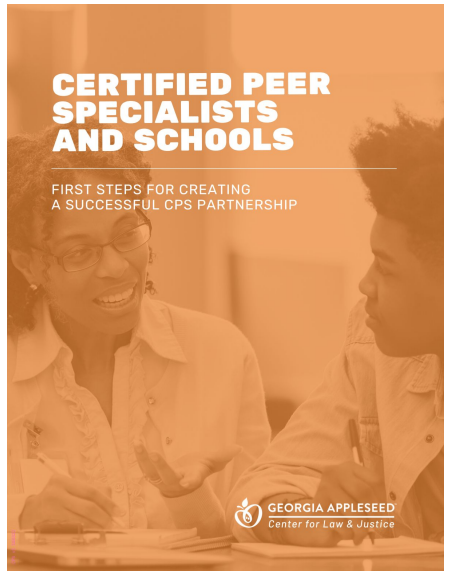
- Free your Feels
- Youth Behavioral Health in Georgia Two Years into the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Georgia School-Based Behavioral Health Provider Perspective

GEORGIA APEX PROGRAM

- Purpose
  - Georgia APEX builds capacity and increases access to mental health services for school-aged youth throughout the state.
  - Promotes collaboration between community mental health providers and schools.
- Capacity
  - 700 schools across the state (nearly half are located in rural Georgia).
  - Medicaid and care management account for 84% of billable students
  - Teacher consultation and classroom observation account for 43% of Tier 1 services
  - Individual and group therapy account for 46% of Tier 3 services

GEORGIA APPLESEED SCHOOL BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES





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Resources

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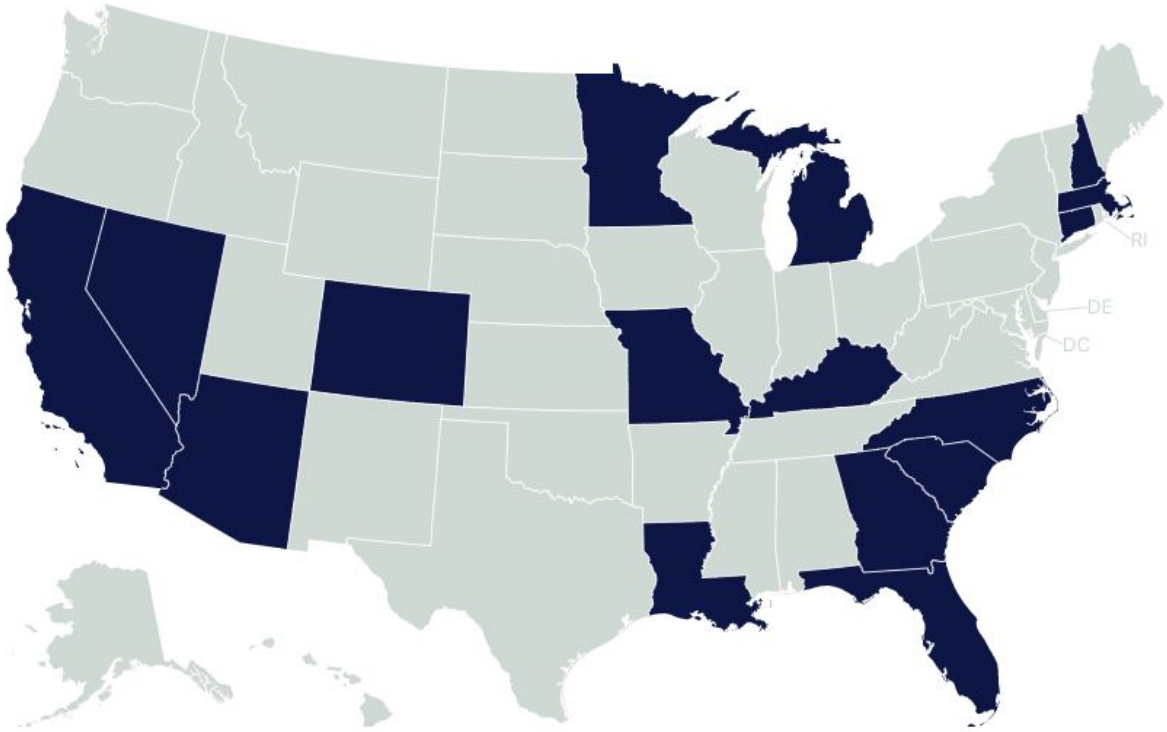
Understanding School Medicaid in Your State

School Medicaid Expansion | School Health Providers | Promising Practices

States That Expanded Medicaid Coverage In Schools | States In the Process Of Expanding Medicaid Coverage In Schools | States Not Yet Taking Action



School Medicaid Expansion Status

In 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services expanded the use of Medicaid to pay for school health services for all Medicaid-enrolled students. This map indicates the states that have taken the necessary steps, as of December 2021, to align their state Medicaid plan with federal policy, and the measures they took. It also identifies states in the process of doing so and those that haven't started.

Click on each state to view its status.

Resources

- NEW! Medicaid/ CHIP School District Data- Georgetown Center for Children and Families
- NEW! Advocacy Tool: Help School-Age Youth Get the Behavioral Health Care They Need- Community Catalyst
- Interactive School Medicaid Map - Healthy Students, Promising Futures, an HSC program

Thank You!

Jessie Mandle
National Program Director
Jessie@healthyschoolscampaign.org

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