



# SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

The Oklahoma State Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSDE-SES) supports district use of the school-based Medicaid reimbursement program. It operates in alignment with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements. Services provided to students with disabilities as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) are eligible for reimbursement through school-based Medicaid reimbursement for students who are also Medicaid eligible. Participation in the school-based Medicaid reimbursement program benefits students, families, and school districts.

## OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Under IDEA, school districts are required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities, through the provision of special education and related services outlined on the student's IEP. Related services, as defined by IDEA, include, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, nursing, and other health services. These services are also eligible for reimbursement under the school-based Medicaid reimbursement program.

Through this reimbursement, schools can recover a portion of the costs associated with these services, allowing more resources to be directed to other essential programs and educational initiatives. Districts have the discretion to use these reimbursement as they see fit. Ultimately, these funds can support broader improvements, benefiting the entire school community.

## PARENTAL CONSENT TO BILL REQUIREMENT

To participate in the school based Medicaid reimbursement program, districts must share confidential information about the student's education and health. Under FERPA and HIPPA, this information is protected and cannot be shared except for in certain circumstances.

- Districts cannot release this information without signed parental consent.
- The district cannot seek reimbursement until the parent has provided signed parental consent for the district to share their child's information.
- This signed parental consent is required only once annually, unless there is an evaluation, assessment, or diagnosis for additional health or education services.
- Parents may withdraw their consent at any time and it will have no impact on their child's access to the IEP services under IDEA.
- If parents decide to provide signed parental consent to allow the district to seek school- based Medicaid reimbursement, it will NOT impact or reduce the family's Medicaid benefits or services in the community.
- Parents are required to sign two consent forms for all services provided. One form authorizes the schools to deliver these services, while the other grants permission for the school to submit claims for Medicaid reimbursement. Limits are based on the provider and not the family.



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## BENEFITS FOR SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

**For Schools:** Medicaid funds help districts recover part of the costs associated with providing health services. The financial support received from Medicaid reimbursement can help fund additional personnel, resources, and specialized programs, strengthening the overall educational environment.

**For Students:** Through Medicaid reimbursement, schools are empowered to deliver consistent and high-quality health-related services to students with disabilities and chronic health conditions. This enables a comprehensive approach to education that supports students' academic and health needs, improving their educational outcomes and overall well-being.

**For Parents:** Parents benefit from knowing that their children receive essential services directly within the school setting, without experiencing chronic absenteeism or reductions in Medicaid benefits. This access to services can reduce barriers to care, ensuring that students' educational needs are addressed promptly and efficiently.

## PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the school-based Medicaid reimbursement program is to support the needs of students with disabilities and chronic health conditions while optimizing our resources effectively. By optimizing Medicaid reimbursement in accordance with IDEA, schools strengthen their capacity to deliver comprehensive educational services. OSDE-SES looks forward to working with each of the school districts to make the school-based Medicaid reimbursement process efficient, transparent, and be beneficial for our entire community. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding Medicaid reimbursement under the IEP, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Office of Special Education Services. Thank you for your continued commitment to our students' success.

School-based Medicaid reimbursement provides funding to support services already being delivered in the school setting; it is not intended for expanding or adding new services.

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