

# Parent Question & Answer Regarding School-Based Medicaid

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## What is School-Based Medicaid?

Medicaid is a federal program that provides coverage for eligible students through federal-state funding.

## How do Medicaid and Illinois schools work together?

The state of Illinois participates in Medicaid School-Based Services. This federal-state program helps districts by allowing them to receive reimbursement for medical services provided to students with disabilities, as documented on the child's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). School districts frequently utilize this Medicaid reimbursement to help meet the costs of providing medically necessary special education services.

## Who can the district submit Medicaid claims for?

While medical services will be provided to all students with disabilities, school districts may only receive reimbursement for services provided to students who are Medicaid eligible.

## What services does Medicaid cover?

Occupational Therapy	Physical Therapy
Nursing Services	Speech/Language Services
Psychological Services	Social Work Services
Audiology Services	Special Transportation
School Health Aides	Screenings/Evaluations

## What are the benefits to my child's school?

Public schools incur costs when providing health related services to students who are eligible Medicaid services. The salaries of providers (such as Nurses, Physical Therapists, and Speech and Language Pathologists) are just one example of the costs incurred by public schools. The ability to pursue Medicaid reimbursement helps schools to offset costs associated with providing health related services.

## How do I help my child's school get Medicaid reimbursement?

To help your child's school recoup some of the costs of providing medical services, you can enroll your child in Medicaid and provide signed consent to the school submitting claims to Medicaid for the services provided to your child. Federal special education law requires school districts to seek parental consent prior to submitting claims for reimbursement from public insurers such as Medicaid.



### **What if I do not grant consent?—or—What if I change my mind?**

You have the right to withdraw consent at anytime. Your child's free and appropriate public education and related services will continue regardless of consent, refusal of consent, or withdrawal of consent.

### **What are the benefits to enrolling my child in Medicaid?**

Medicaid provides access to quality health care options for families that may not have the opportunity to receive the same level of care elsewhere.

### **Are there any negative effects to enrolling my child in Medicaid?**

No, there are no negative effects to enrolling your child in Medicaid. Services provided to a student within a school setting are provided at no cost to the parent/guardian. Additionally, granting permission for the school district to bill Medicaid will not reduce your ability to seek other Medicaid-covered health related services outside of the school setting. This permission does not decrease lifetime coverage, increase premiums, or lead to the discontinuation of benefits, as Medicaid does not have a maximum number of eligible visits or a lifetime maximum for services.

### **Who will see this information?**

Your child's demographic and service information will be shared with the district's billing agent and HFS (Healthcare and Family Services) for the purpose of verifying Medicaid eligibility and submitting claims.

### **How do I enroll my child in Medicaid?**

Enrolling your child in Medicaid is easy! The Application for Benefits Eligibility site (link below) will walk you through the process of determining if you should apply, and applying for benefits: [abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/](http://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/)

For questions or assistance with the ABE application, please contact ABE at (800) 843-6154.

You can also contact your primary care physician or find a local office for help in enrolling in Medicaid by visiting [widget.getcoveredamerica.org/](http://widget.getcoveredamerica.org/) or calling toll free at (866) 311-1119 with any questions.

