



Allow Schools to Tap into a Federal Funding Stream for Health Services And Fill Gaps to Meet the Needs of More Students

A new federal policy allows for schools to bill and be reimbursed for health services provided to all children covered by Medicaid. Historically, schools could only bill Medicaid for services provided to students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). A Kentucky State Medicaid Plan Amendment to implement this new option would allow schools to broaden the scope of services provided in the school setting. Schools could bill for screenings (dental, mental health, and vision), immunizations, acute care services, chronic disease management, visits to the school nurse and school clinic, therapies, and many other services. States such as Louisiana and California have adopted this policy in order to seize this new opportunity to expand school-based health services.

Utilize existing Medicaid dollars to give schools the flexibility and resources to:

Fund health professionals in the school setting

For years, schools have struggled to find and prioritize funding for health providers in schools, such as nurses, even though most education leaders realize the importance of having those crucial health providers on site. This opportunity utilizes an existing funding mechanism through the Medicaid program to place health providers in schools to provide services covered under Medicaid.

Close gaps in health care access

Children with Medicaid coverage often do not receive needed health services due to barriers such as long drive times for parents, parents trying to balance work schedules, and finding a provider who accepts Medicaid that lives nearby. For example, according to the Kentucky Department for Medicaid, in 2013, only 44% of children covered by KCHIP or Medicaid received dental services, but many more may have received services if an oral health professional could have seen them at their school. Allowing schools to bill for health services provided to Medicaid eligible children will help ensure children receive needed care.

Meet children's health needs, so they can stay in the classroom and focus on learning

Research strongly shows that when children experience health problems in the classroom, such as a toothache or untreated asthma, it is difficult for them to concentrate and do well in school. Providing health services in the school setting can help address immediate health care needs and keep students learning.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Allow schools to tap into a federal funding stream for health services, such as immunizations, well-child exams, and oral or mental health screenings through a Medicaid State Plan Amendment.

