

# Medicaid Matters for Pennsylvania Schools

## Did You Know?

Pennsylvania schools are required by federal law – the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – to provide all necessary health-related services identified in a child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) beginning at age 3.

Over 63% of kids with IEPs in the schools participating in the School-Based ACCESS Program were Medicaid eligible in 2015-2016.

The School-Based ACCESS Program provides Medicaid funding to help cover the increasing costs of these mandatory IEP services for kids with disabilities such as autism, speech impairments or intellectual disabilities.

That’s why the School-Based ACCESS Program – through Medicaid dollars – plays such an important role in helping to fund early intervention and special education programs across Pennsylvania.

Currently, **more than 1.2 million Pennsylvania kids count on Medicaid** to receive comprehensive health care coverage, including primary and preventative care services.

- **The School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) provides Medicaid reimbursement for early intervention and K-12** special education programs that provide medically necessary health-related services to kids who are Medicaid eligible.
- **More than 525 local education agencies participate annually in the SBAP in Pennsylvania** – the majority of participants includes school districts, as well as, charter schools, early intervention programs and Intermediate Units.
- **SBAP has a long history in Pennsylvania.** It has provided Medicaid funding to Pennsylvania schools’ special education programs for more than 27 years!

**SBAP helps fund medically necessary health-related services to children with disabilities in early intervention and special education. These can include:**

- ★ Assistive devices
- ★ Language and hearing services
- ★ Nursing care and medication administration
- ★ Occupational therapy
- ★ Personal care services
- ★ Physical therapy
- ★ Social work and counseling services
- ★ Speech therapy
- ★ Special transportation services to and from school

- **Our most vulnerable children – those with disabilities or live in low-income families – count on Medicaid and these essential services** to help them reach their fullest potential. More than 2.7 million services were provided and paid through SBAP in 2015-2016.
- **Pennsylvania schools received over \$157.5 million in Medicaid reimbursement during the 2015-2016 school year.** Without these federal funds available through SBAP, Pennsylvania schools would have a difficult time providing the required IEP services without adding another financial burden onto schools’ already tight budgets. That’s why continued support for Medicaid and this program is critical.
- **Nearly 112,000 kids have been identified by schools participating in the SBAP as eligible for billing through the program during the 2015-2016 school year.** SBAP continues to be an important funding avenue for Pennsylvania schools as greater needs and increased services continue to be identified for kids within special education.



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