

**Wyoming Department of Education and
Wyoming Department of Health**

**Frequently Asked Questions for
School-Based Services**

Last Updated: February 8, 2021

Section 1: Document Background

On April 1, 2021, Governor Mark Gordon signed into law the Medicaid billing for school-based services bill. The new law authorizes school districts to bill for school-based services for Medicaid eligible students.

The Wyoming Departments of Education and Health (the Departments) are publishing this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document in response to questions about the new school-based services program. These questions were collected from inquiries made to the Departments and school districts. Some questions have been modified from the originally submitted language to be as clear as possible.

If you have additional school-based questions, please contact the Departments via email at wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov or by phone at (307) 777-7491.

For more information on Wyoming's school-based services program visit <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/>

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Section 2: Questions and Responses

Federal Financing

Q1: What is the Wyoming Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) program?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

The Wyoming school-based services program was designed to allow school districts to bill the Federal Medicaid Program for health-related school-based services. The program is anticipated to begin July 1, 2022.

Reimbursement for school-based services have been available for states since 1998 and Wyoming is the final state to implement this reimbursement program. This program will bring federal tax dollars back into Wyoming and save the state hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

The Federal Medicaid Program will reimburse school districts for approximately 56.2 percent (during the COVID pandemic emergency period) of the cost of services for eligible students. Wyoming state education funds will be used to cover the remaining costs.

Q2: Why are Wyoming schools able to bill the Federal Medicaid Program?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

In 1988, the U.S. Congress passed the “Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act” (P.L. 100-360) which included a provision allowing local school districts to get reimbursed from the Federal Medicaid Program for these services.

In 2021, the Wyoming legislature passed the Medicaid Billing for School-Based Services Act ([SF0079](#)). The new law authorizes school districts to bill for school-based services for Medicaid eligible students.

Q3: Will any of the federal money collected go directly to my child?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

No. The money is a reimbursement of dollars already spent by your local school district on behalf of all children in the Special Education Program. The money will be paid to the school district, the “provider” of the health-related service.

Delivery of Services

Q4: Who receives School-Based Services (SBS)?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

The federal government requires school districts to provide related services to children who

Updated: December 2021

Note: Wyoming school-based services are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement until the State Plan Amendment has been submitted to and approved by CMS.

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meet the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) (IDEA) definition of a child with a disability. Related services assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education and include supportive services, such as speech-language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, among other services. IDEA gives eligible children with disabilities the right to receive special education and related services in school at no cost to the parents.

To be eligible for special education and related services a child must be between 3 and 21 years old and have one or more of the following disabilities, determined by IDEA:

- Autism
- Deafness and/or visual impairment/blindness
- Developmental delay (for age 3 to 5)
- Emotional disturbance
- Hearing impairment
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairment
- Other health impairment
- Physical impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Speech or language impairment
- Traumatic brain injury

Q5: What services are included in Medicaid SBS?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

Proposed Wyoming Medicaid eligible school-based services include services covered in for a child through their individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP). When eligible services are provided under a child's IEP or IFSP, these services may be eligible for federal Medicaid reimbursement. Eligible Medicaid services covered in school districts may include:

- Speech Language Therapy provided by Speech Language Pathologists
- Nursing provided by Registered Nurses
- Occupational Therapy provided by Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapy provided by Physical Therapists
- Psychological/Counseling (School) provided by School Psychologists, School

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Social Workers, School Counselors, and Certified Mental Health Workers (CMHW)

Q6: Will providers need to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccine?

Date Added/Revised: 11/30/21

As of now, providers will not need to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination.

Parental Consent

Q7: What do I need to do to help my child's school to benefit from this program?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

Whether your child is covered by Medicaid or not, please complete and return a parental consent form to your school district immediately. All paperwork will be confidentially handled by the school district.

The parental consent form is available here: [Link](#). Please provide the signed form to your child's **XX**.

Q8: I haven't signed my child's parental consent form, is it too late?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

No. Parental consent forms are accepted anytime throughout the school year.

Q9: Can I withdraw consent?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

Yes. Your consent is voluntary, and you have the right under Federal Medicaid Regulations (34 CFR Part 99 and Part 300) to withdraw your consent at any time.

Q10: If my child moves schools or school districts do parents need to sign a new parental consent form?

Date Added/Revised: 11/30/21

No. Parents only have to sign the parental consent form once. Once signed, the form will stay with the student's documentation and will follow the child regardless of where they are enrolled, within the state of Wyoming.

Q11: My child is not eligible for Medicaid. Should I still sign the consent?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

Yes. The school district will keep your consent on file should your child become Medicaid

eligible.

Q12: If I do not consent to my child's service being reimbursed by Medicaid, will this affect my child receiving services?

Date Added/Revised: 12/2/21

No. Your child will receive all services according to their IEP or IESP and will not be penalized in service delivery. due to their lack of participation in this reimbursement program.

WY Medicaid – Student Coverage

Q13: Do I have to sign up my child for Medicaid for my child to receive School-Based Services?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

No. You are never required to enroll in Medicaid for your child to receive special education and related services. To bill Wyoming Medicaid for school-based services, a limited amount of information must be shared with Wyoming Medicaid. To share that information, parents must sign a Parental Consent form. Your consent is voluntary, and you have the right under Federal Medicaid Regulations (34 CFR Part 99 and Part 300) to withdraw your consent at any time.

Q14: Do I have to prove my child's Medicaid eligibility?

Date Added/Revised: 11/1/21

No. Parents do not have to prove their child's Medicaid eligibility or share their child's Medicaid card with the school district. A child's Medicaid eligibility will be verified with the Wyoming Department of Health by the school district once the parental consent is signed.

Q15: What information about my child is shared with Wyoming Medicaid?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

The following Non-Medical information is shared with Wyoming Medicaid:

- Your child's name, Medicaid recipient number, and birth date
- Service code (numerical code that identifies the service's provided)
- Service time spent with your child (number of minutes)

Q16: Will this program affect my child's regular Medicaid coverage?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

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No. The school Medicaid program is specific to special education services delivered in our school district and is separate from the Medicaid program supported by the State of Wyoming. This program has no impact on the coverage for your child's normal medical expenses and no impact on their lifetime benefit as long as services are medically necessary.

Q17: Will School-Based Services affect care outside of the school setting?

Date Added/Revised: 11/30/21

No. Medicaid services delivered outside of school setting will not be affected by this program.

Insurance Billing

Q18: Will I receive a bill for any school-based services? What if my child loses Medicaid coverage?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

No. Parents will never receive a bill for any school-based services. If a child loses eligibility for Wyoming Medicaid, the child will continue to receive special education and related services as required by IDEA, free of charge to the child's family.

Q19: Will the school bill my private insurance?

Date Added/Revised: 11/4/21

No. Private insurance companies do not pay for individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP) health services.