**School-Based Services Program Parental/Legal Guardian Consent**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**OVERVIEW**

On April 1, 2021, Governor Mark Gordon signed into law the Medicaid Billing for School-Based Services Act (SF0079). The new law authorizes school districts to bill Medicaid for school based services for Medicaid eligible students. States have been able to access federal funds for certain health related services since 1998 and Wyoming is the final state to implement this reimbursement program. The School-Based Services (SBS) Program allows Wyoming to access federal funds for eligible services delivered to Medicaid eligible students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in a school-based setting.

**What is the Medicaid School-Based Services (SBS) Program?**

* The SBS Program allows school districts to seek reimbursement from Medicaid for certain services provided to students who are Medicaid eligible with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

**Who receives School-Based Services?**

* The federal government requires school districts to provide certain health related services to children with a disability. Related services include speech-language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, among other services.

**What is my role as a parent/legal guardian?**

* Please complete and return the parental/legal guardian consent form to your school. To bill Medicaid for school-based services, a limited amount of information must be shared with Wyoming Medicaid. To share that information, parents/legal guardians must sign a parental/legal guardian consent form. Consent is voluntary, and parents/legal guardians have the right to withdraw consent at any time.

**Will the program affect my child’s services or coverage of Medicaid?**

* No. Students will receive all necessary related services, regardless of participation in the SBS Program or Medicaid eligibility. Participation in the SBS Program is voluntary and is not required for your child to receive special education and related services. The SBS Program will not affect Medicaid coverage, your child's lifetime benefit, or any services your child receives outside of the school setting.

**What information about my child is shared with Wyoming Medicaid?**

* 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); and service time spent with your child (number of minutes).

**If my child moves schools or school districts do parents need to sign a new parental/legal guardian consent form?**

* No. Parents/legal guardians only have to sign the 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.

**What do I need to do to help my child’s school benefit from this program?**

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

**Will the school bill my private insurance?**

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

**My child is not eligible for Medicaid. Should I still sign the consent form?**

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

**Will this program affect my child’s regular Medicaid coverage?**

* 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.