**Wyoming School-Based Services (SBS) Program Quarterly Newsletter**

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|  | **Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) & Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)** |
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**August 2022**

**CMS Approves State Plan Amendment**

**History of SBS** In 1975, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act ([Public Law 94-142](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-89/pdf/STATUTE-89-Pg773.pdf)) which changed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, in a 1990 reauthorization. IDEA is a federal law that makes a free appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities and ensures special education is provided. In 1989, Congress provided an option for public school districts (LEAs) to recover a portion of the costs of providing Medicaid services to eligible children. The SBS Program allows LEAs to claim federal reimbursement to match the education dollars already spent for the medically necessary health care services provided to Medicaid eligible students. Wyoming is the 50th state to implement a reimbursement program, authorized by the Wyoming State Legislature in April 2021.

On July 19, 2022 CMS approved the WDH’s State Plan Amendment (SPA). The approval allows the state to begin submitting claims for approved services to Medicaid for reimbursement. The Amendment includes details on the school-based services reimbursement process and the additional providers who can bill for these services.

Currently 4 pilot School Districts are planning on submitting claims for reimbursement through the SBS Program. These districts have identified interest to begin the reimbursement process upon approval of the SPA. The Pilot Districts include: Converse 1, Fremont 25, Park 6, and Niobrara 1.

WDH began training for these districts at the start of 2022 and have implemented a training plan throughout the summer and into the fall of 2022. Training began with an “SBS Program 101,” presentation which provided the background of School-Based Services. From this conversation, WDH collected stakeholder feedback to identify additional topics for training, both formal meetings and through published resources. Upcoming Training Topics Include:

* Documentation
* Medical Necessity
* Provider Requirements

**WDH begins training plan with Pilot Districts**

In late June 2022, President Biden signed the bipartisan Safer Communities Act to prevent gun violence. The new law includes language which requires CMS to update school-based Medicaid guidance before June 2023.

Updates from CMS will include:

* Additional clarity and federal guidance on the implementation and operation of SBS.
* Establishment of a technical assistance (TA) center to consult on stakeholder needs.
* Provide strategies and tools to reduce the administrative burden on LEAs, specifically small rural LEAs.

WDH is monitoring this bill, its implementation, and additional guidance to identify areas of growth for the SBS Program within the state and how to leverage the additional resources provided by CMS.

**Safer Communities Act**

**School-Based Services**

**Fast Facts**

**Partnership with Wyoming Department of Education**

The Wyoming SBS Program is operated in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education. The two agencies are working together to implement and operate the SBS Program, using an inter- governmental transfer (IGT) to circulate funds between the departments and back into the school systems once reimbursed by the federal government. Participating districts will annually remit funds received through the SBS program back to the WDE, which will then be incorporated into the Department of Education School Foundation Program Account.

* Reimbursement occurs on an ongoing basis and LEAs have 12 months from the date of service to submit claims.
* According to the Wyoming Association of Special Education Administrators (WASEA) about 14% of K-12 students in Wyoming have an active IEP.
* Additional details and resources are available on the **WY SBS website**, found here: <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/>



**Resources**

1. Wyoming Department of Health Main Website: [Home Page - Wyoming Department of Health](https://health.wyo.gov/)
2. Wyoming Department of Health SBS Program Website: [School-Based Services - Wyoming Department of Health](https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/)
3. Wyoming Department of Education Website: [Home - Wyoming Department of Education](https://edu.wyoming.gov/)

\*\*\*If interested in learning how to enroll your LEA in the SBS Program so that you can bill Medicaid for reimbursement, please contact the Wyoming Department of Health at: [wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov).

**The SBS Program Services**

**and Providers**

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| **Services** | **Providers** |
| Speech Language Therapy | Licensed Audiologist |
| Speech Language Pathologist |
| Speech-Language Pathology Assistant |
| Speech-Language Pathology Aide |
| Nursing | Registered Nurse (RN) |
| School Nurse RN |
| Advanced Practice Registered Nurse |
| Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) |
| School Nurse LPN |
| Certified Nurse Assistant |
| Occupational Therapy | Occupational Therapist |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant |
| Physical Therapy | Physical Therapist |
| Physical Therapy Assistant |
| Physical Therapy Aide |
| Psychology/ Counseling | Licensed Clinical Psychologist |
| Credentialed school psychologist with a Specialist in School Psychology credential |
| Licensed Clinical Social Worker |
| School Social Worker |
| Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist |
| Licensed Professional Counselor |
| School Counselor |
| Certified Mental Health Worker |
| Licensed Behavior Analyst |
| Licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst |
| Registered Behavior Technician |

**Wyoming Department of Health Published the SBS Program Provider Manual**

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| Link | **Website**: | Receiver | **Contact** | Email | **Email** |
|  | https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/ |  | (307) 777-7531 |  | [wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov)  or  [justin.browning1@wyo.gov](mailto:justin.browning1@wyo.gov) |

WDH will update the Manual on a quarterly basis. These updates will include any changes to the program as well as additional detail as requested by stakeholders.

The manual available to download on the SBS Webpage under “Quick Links”: <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/>

* The direct services for which Medicaid reimbursement may be claimed by LEAs;
* The qualifications of the individuals providing Medicaid-reimbursable services in the SBS Program;
* The procedures for claiming reimbursement for healthcare services; and
* The programmatic expectations of LEAs that participate in the SBS Program.

WDH encourages providers and other stakeholders to review the published Manual to best understand the responsibilities related to the SBS Program.

With the implementation of the SBS Program, WDH published a Provider Manual which will guide providers and stakeholders in the SBS Program reimbursement process.

The Provider Manual is a living document that provides the history, background, regulations, and process for submitting claims for reimbursement to Medicaid for school-based services.

The Provider Manual is designed to provide all necessary information to stakeholders in Wyoming regarding the SBS Program. The information in the Manual details the correct and appropriate methods for provider services and seeking reimbursement.

The manual includes:

* The steps required for LEAs and their ancillary personnel to become SBS Program providers;