



School-based Medicaid and Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health Planning Council – July 2024



Medicaid, Youth, and Schools

What is Medicaid?



Medicaid is a health care coverage program.

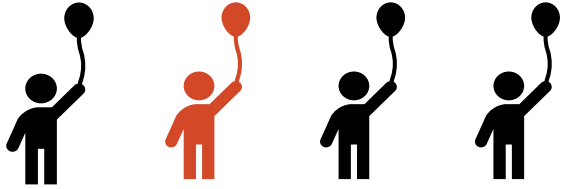


It is jointly funded by state and federal governments.



Medicaid provides support for health care services delivered in schools and helps schools reduce health care-related costs.

Who can benefit from school-based services?



1 of every **4** youth under the age of 19 in North Dakota has health coverage through Medicaid or CHIP.



Nationwide, youth are **6 times** more likely to access healthcare at school.



Medicaid is the largest source of coverage for children with significant behavioral health needs.

Potential benefits of healthier students



By identifying health needs



And connecting students to a broad range of health care services, including behavioral health supports and services which schools are likely already providing



Schools can promote health and educational equity



And potentially increase engagement, attendance, and school safety



Getting a feel for the landscape

What is the history of School-Based Medicaid in ND?

Historically, Medicaid in schools was only available for students with disabilities on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

- Late 1980s



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) allowed State Medicaid Agencies to expand school-based Medicaid coverage to students not on IEPs.

- 2014



North Dakota Medicaid expanded school-based service coverage to include both medically necessary IEP AND non-IEP services.

- 2021
- Note: We did not have limiting language in our State Plan and so did not require a SPA

What is the current landscape of school-based services?

School-based service providers

- In-house (school-employed)
- Community providers who come into schools

Schools are primarily billing special education services

- Speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for students with autism
- School nursing (complex needs)

Community providers are primarily billing behavioral health services

- Targeted Case Management
- Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services

School Districts/Special Education Units billing ND Medicaid

Dickinson Public School District

Grand Forks Public School District

GST Multidistrict

James Rive Multidistrict Special Education Unit

Lake Region Special Education

Minot Public School District

Morton Sioux Special Education Unit

Oliver Mercer Multidistrict Special Education Unit

Rural Cass Special Services Multi District

Bismarck Public School District

Fargo Public School District

Cass County School District

Sheyenne Valley Special Education Unit

Souris Valley Special Education Unit

South Valley Multi District

Upper Valley Special Education Unit

Wahpeton School District

WilMac Multi District Special Education Unit

Community Providers include

Human service
centers

Human service
zones

Public health
units

Private providers

Increase in community-based behavioral health services offered in schools

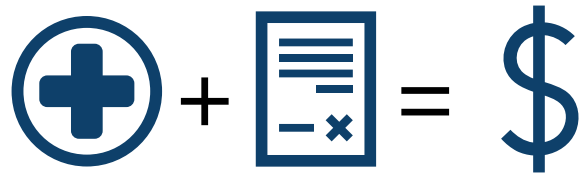
We're seeing an increase in community providers billing Medicaid for behavioral health services offered in school settings (2022-'23 school year).



We know that youth are still getting more behavioral health services in their communities versus in their schools.

How are school-based services paid in North Dakota?

ND is fee-for-service. This means that ND Medicaid pays health care professionals directly for each service billed.



Services are paid according to published fee schedules.

RESOURCE: [ND Medicaid Provider Page – Fee Schedules](#)

IEP service reimbursement

ND Schools currently pay the state share of Medicaid funding for IEP services.

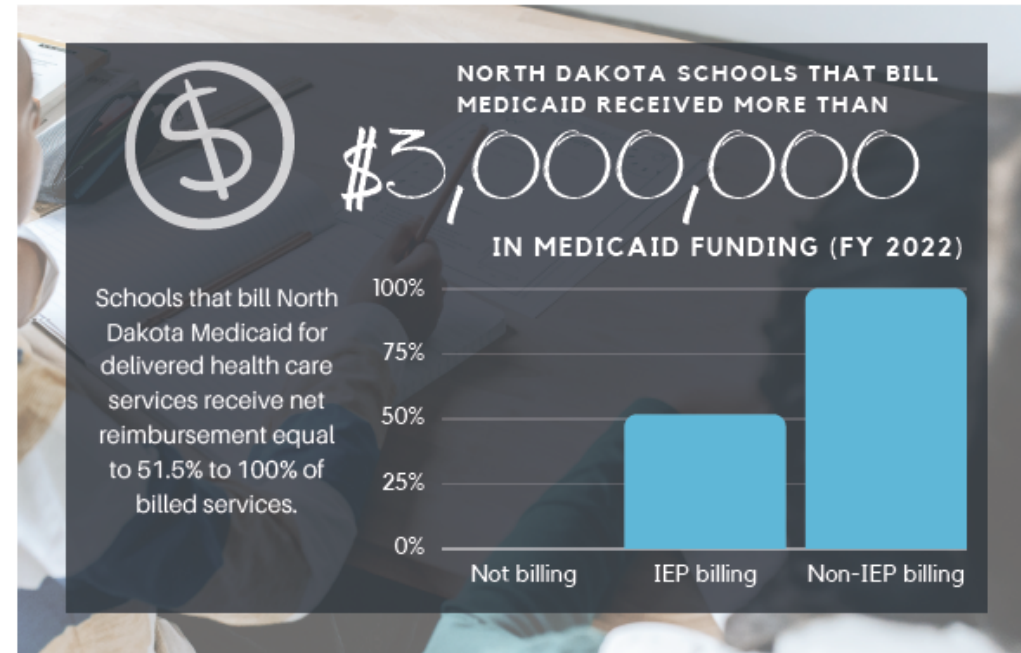
This is called the Medicaid Match.

- The federal government can never fund less than 50% of a state's Medicaid costs and so the state never pays more than 50%. The federal/state share amount changes each year.
- It is called the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP). For FY 2024 (Oct 1, 2023-Sept 30, 2024) the federal share is 53.82%.

100% Reimbursement for Non-IEP services

The Medicaid Match currently DOES NOT APPLY to

- Non-IEP services which include behavioral health rehabilitative services, and
- 1915(i) behavioral health supports and services



Benefits of School Medicaid Billing in ND

Medicaid funding covers all or part of health care services delivered in schools.

SERVICE EXAMPLE	FEE SCHEDULE AMOUNT	NET REIMBURSEMENT TO SCHOOL
Student receives counseling for 15 minutes	\$25.96 Rehab Services Fee Schedule	IEP Service = \$13.37 (51.5% [^]) Non-IEP service = \$25.96 (100%)

[^]Medicaid is jointly funded by state and federal governments. State school aid payments are reduced by the state's share of IEP service reimbursement, aka Medicaid Match. This match rate changes annually based on the Federal Matching Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

A benefit of schools billing ND Medicaid

\$ Eligibility to apply for Behavioral Health School Grant funding.

Behavioral Health School Grants allow Units or Districts who are billing Medicaid to apply for a grant up to the amount of their Medicaid Match.

The purpose of these grants is to address locally-identified gaps along the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care.

[Behavioral Health School Grant Funding | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)













Medicaid at the Surface



Medicaid in North Dakota Schools

Services Provided by or Through Schools






-  Physical Therapy (PT)
Occupational Therapy (OT)
Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)
-  Vision services
-  Audiology
-  Nursing Services that support a child's need to access FAPE provided by a RN for children with complex medical needs
-  Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
-  Transportation from school to IEP services provided at an offsite location and back to school
-  Behavioral Health Services, Including Rehabilitative Mental Health Services
 - Assessments
 - Counseling and therapy
 - Skills restoration and integration
-  1915(i) State Plan Amendment home and community-based behavioral health supports**
-  Vaccines
-  Targeted Case Management (SMI/SED)
-  Medical screenings and assessments, including Health Tracks/EPST interperiodic screenings
-  Counseling, Social Work, and Psychology*

*School psychologists are not currently Medicaid-enrollable providers

**1915(i) supports are billed separately from IEP/IFSP and non-IEP/IFSP services

Last updated:
April 14, 2023

 www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/Medicaid/provider
 dhsmed@nd.gov
 (701) 328-7068 or (800) 755-2604

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Services provided by or through schools

- Therapies
- Vision and hearing
- Nursing
- ABA
- Transportation
- Behavioral health, including 1915(i) supports & services
- Vaccines
- Targeted Case Management (SED and child welfare)
- Medical Screenings and Assessments
- Counseling

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Service requirements

Students must be



Medicaid-eligible (meaning they have an active Medicaid enrollment) on the date of service

*Children are generally enrolled for 12 continuous months

Service providers must be



Enrolled with ND Medicaid and

- Employed by the school, or contracted through the school

Qualified/licensed to provide services within the scope of their practice

Services must be



Covered under the ND State Medicaid Plan

Medically necessary

Provided directly to the student

Medical, not educational or instructional



Digging in to Behavioral Health Coverage

Medicaid coverage

Behavioral Health
Rehabilitative Services

1915(i) Behavioral Health
Services and Supports*

Substance Use Disorder
treatment

Other services offered by
licensed, independently
practicing behavioral
health practitioners

Telebehavioral health

*Has separate application and eligibility criteria

Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services

Policy

Screening, Triage, and Referral Leading to Assessment

Behavioral Assessment

Crisis Intervention

Nursing Assessment and Evaluation

Behavioral Health Counseling and Therapy

Intensive In-home for Children

Skills Restoration

Skills Integration

Behavioral Intervention

Assessment for Alleged Abuse and/or Neglect and Recommended Plan of Care (formerly known as Forensic Interview)

Member eligibility, cont'd

Member must have **at least 1 of the following circumstances** and a referral from a qualified provider:

Be at risk of entering or reentering a mental health facility or hospital and demonstrate a score of 25 or above based on the WHODAS 2.0 or a DLA-20 score of 5 or lower; **and/or**

Need substance use disorder treatment services; **and/or**

Have a mental health disorder and be from a household that is in crisis and at risk of major dysfunction that could lead to disruption of the current family makeup; **and/or**

Have a mental health disorder and be in family that has experienced dysfunction that has resulted in disruption of the family.

Qualified Providers

Other Licensed Providers (OLPs)	Non-OLP Providers
Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs)	Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSWs)
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs)	Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs)
Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs)	Licensed Exempt Psychologist
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)	Licensed Associate Professional Counselor (LAPC)
Licensed Addiction Counselors (LACs)	Registered Nurses (RN)
Psychologists (asking CMS to add school psychologists in 2024)	Behavioral Modification Specialists
	Mental Health Technicians
	Asking CMS to add behavior analysts in 2024



1915(i) Services

- Peer Support (18+)
- Non-Medical Transportation (All ages)
- Housing Support (17.5+)
- Benefits Planning (All ages)
- Pre-Vocational Training (17.5+ or has GED/Diploma)
- Supported Employment (14+)
- Supported Education (5+)
- Respite (0 through 20)
- Training & Support for Unpaid Caregivers (All ages)
- Family Peer Support (0 through 17)
- Community Transition Service* (All ages)

1915(i) Individual Eligibility Criteria

- Ages 0+
- Enrolled in Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion
- Household income at or below 150% of
- Qualifying Behavioral Health diagnosis
- WHODAS 2.0 Assessment score of 25+ OR DLA-20 score of 5 or less
- Home and community-based residency (not living in an institutional setting)



Conflict-free care coordination under federal 1915(i) rules

Eligibility

Care
coordination

Services

Peer Support

Non-Medical Transportation

Housing Support

Benefits Planning

Pre-Vocational Training

Supported Employment

Supported Education

Respite

Training and Support for Unpaid Caregivers

Family Peer Support

Community Transition Service



Next steps

Ongoing work

ND Medicaid is supporting the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) , regional education associations (REAs) and consortiums, as well as local education agencies (LEAs) in exploring and implementing Medicaid billing for medically necessary behavioral health services (as well as all covered Medicaid services).

Goal: Ensure kids are receiving quality behavioral health services when they need them.

How you can help

Ask: What are the behavioral health needs of students in your school district?

Know: Is your local school district billing ND Medicaid?

Know: Does your school offer behavioral health services? If so, what do those look like?

Ask and share: Are there barriers to offering behavioral health services in schools we should know about?

Act: Be an advocate for offering/increasing behavioral health services in schools



Help is available for interested schools

Medicaid School-Based Services policy - [school-based-medicaid.pdf \(nd.gov\)](https://www.nd.gov/health/human-services/medicaid/school-based-medicaid.pdf)

School Medicaid webinar series:

- Medicaid 101 for schools
 - [Recording](#)
 - [Slides](#)
- Nuts & Bolts of School Medicaid
 - [Recording](#)
 - [Slides](#)
- Medicaid 1915(i) Services and Supports in schools
 - [Recording](#)
 - [Slides](#)



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