

Medicaid Schools

<http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/school-based-medicaid>



Special Interests

MEDUCAID NEWS

- Free Mental Health Resources to Help Students
- 2015: Medicaid, ADA and Special Ed Milestones

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Medicaid Billing Tool Kit:
[November 2014](#)

Medicaid Billing Guide:
[April 2015](#)

Medicaid (IEP and MAC) Reimbursements Report:
[SFY 2015 Totals, 6/30/15](#)

Newsletter Search Tips and Fast Facts Locator:
[Medicaid in Schools Newsletter Archive](#)

Learning Connection:
[IDOE Medicaid in Schools Community](#) - your online connection to School-based Medicaid Announcements, Files & Bookmarks, Forum Discussions and an Events Calendar. Check out this new folder under Files & Bookmarks: [Resources to HELP STUDENTS: Behavioral/Mental Health Prevention, Support & Treatment Services](#)

What Does Medicaid's "Free Care" Policy Change Mean for Schools?

Prior to December 2014 a federal Medicaid policy, often referred to as the "free care restriction," presented a major obstacle to Medicaid claiming for school-based health care services other than those required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) of a Medicaid-eligible special education student. Thanks to a special provision that the U.S. Congress added to the Social Security Act in 1988, IEP-required services have long been exempt from this free care policy.

Recognizing that schools provide health-related accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ("504 Plan" services) as well as services to address the medical needs of students with Individualized Healthcare Plans (IHPs), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rescinded this policy to allow K-12 schools to leverage federal Medicaid funds for more of the covered services routinely provide to Medicaid-enrolled school-age students. This policy change also clears the way for public schools to claim Medicaid reimbursement for covered primary, preventive and treatment services provided to all eligible children ages 20 years and younger under Medicaid's federally mandated Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

More good news for schools: on

June 1, 2015, federal officials from CMS and the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE) met to discuss [CMS's December 2014 free care letter to State Medicaid Directors](#) and CMS's recent work with NAME (National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc.) to compile school-based Medicaid claiming stakeholders' questions and requests for additional federal guidance necessary to implement the free care policy change at the state and local level.

Staff at the federal Medicaid and Education agencies have plans to continue dialogue about:

- addressing the crucial links between student health and learning;
- improving school-age children's access to health care; and
- facilitating schools' efforts to help students arrive at school ready to learn.

Officials from these two federal agencies are scheduled to speak and engage with Medicaid in Education stakeholders at the October 4-7, 2015 NAME conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Watch the NAME web site for additional information and status updates on federal- and state-level implementation of Medicaid's free care policy change: www.medicaidforeducation.org.

Double Issue :
Spring/Summer
2015

Did you know?

- NASDSE (National Association of Directors of Special Education) & NAME (National Alliance for Medicaid in Education) will hold 2015 conferences in Baltimore the first week of October; see Page 4.
- You can view 2015 Indiana School Health Network Conference presentations online at <http://inschool-health.org/conference/2015/>
- Medicaid, ADA and IDEA observe anniversaries in 2015; see Page 2.

Medicaid Schools

Medicaid Turns 50

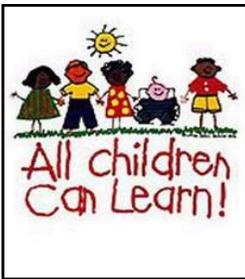


Medicaid turned 50 on July 30, 2015. In observance of this milestone, federal web sites such as <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-50th-anniversary/overall-medicaid/overview-medicaid-anniversary.html> and <http://cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Look-Up-Topics/50th-Anniversary/Medicare-and-Medicaid-50th-Anniversary.html>

present historic photographs, facts, statistics and articles illustrating the passage and signing of federal legislation that created the Medicare and Medicaid programs, initial public reactions regarding these programs, and the numbers of people each has served over the first half century of these two programs' existence.

These sites also describe ways in which the Medicaid and Medicare programs have transformed our nation's health care system over time and future possibilities for these programs to help bring about positive changes in the coverage, quality and innovation offered throughout the health care system in the United States of America.

IDEA Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary



To pay tribute to the accomplishments of students with disabilities in the 40 years since Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services blog at <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/osers/2015/04/idea-changes-lives-look-whos-going-to-college/> features articles and videos describing how "**IDEA Changes Lives**" from the perspective of OSERS staff, students with disabilities and their parents. The topics range from "*My Experience with Early Intervention*" and "*Forty Years of Parent Training and Support*" to "*Look Who's Going to College*."

Another web page includes photos and a video clip from the US DOE's celebration, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, of IDEA's 25th anniversary and 40 years of Very Special Arts (VSA). Visit <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/osers/> to see photos of DOE Secretary Arne Duncan, internationally recognized dancer with cerebral palsy Lawrence Carter-Long, U.S. Surgeon General Murthy, the other guests and performers who came together with school-age children with disabilities and their families for this special day of learning that anyone can participate in the arts.

federal agency's emphasis on "results driven accountability" to help improve educational outcomes for K-12 students with disabilities, some of the media and technology services and personnel prep programs OSERS supports, and an announcement about a new pilot demonstration funding opportunity to increase the accessibility of computers and web sites through the Automated Personalization Computing Project (APCP). Other posts at this site highlight recently published guidance on the importance of Braille instruction, effective communication with children who have a hearing, vision or speech disability, and keeping students with disabilities safe from bullying.

Additionally, this site contains articles about OSERS' "ADA Achievements," including the

ADA—Empowering People with Disabilities for 25 Years

Celebrating 25 years of removing barriers and empowering people following enactment of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), the Department of Justice web site presents the opportunity to relive history through a variety of press releases, videos, articles and blog posts. In addition to an "*Introduction to the ADA*" and "*Text of the ADA as amended*,"

DOJ's monthly web posts "spotlight efforts that are opening gateways to full participation and opportunity for people with disabilities." Among these are commentary about and a link to the new ADA technical assistance guide for state and local governments, which was published by the Civil Rights Division, as well as copies of settlement agreements to elimi-

nate discrimination against persons with disabilities and improve their access to community centers, public facilities and government records. To view these and other monthly postings, visit DOJ's anniversary web page at:

http://www.ada.gov/ada_25th_anniversary/index.html.



Medicaid Schools

Disproportionality, Discipline and Behavioral Health



From conversations with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that were found to have disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education or in specific disability categories and LEAs with significant discrepancies in the rate of suspensions and expulsions of students with IEPs or significant discrepancies by race or ethnicity in the rate of suspensions and expulsions among students with IEPs, Office of Special Educa-

tion staff are aware that LEAs increasingly point to the need for student mental health services, culturally competent positive behavioral intervention and supports and alternative disciplinary strategies to address these types of systemic imbalances. In an effort to assist these and all schools, the IDOE Medicaid in Schools Community now offers a [Resources to HELP STUDENTS: Behavioral/Mental Health Prevention, Support & Treatment Services](#) folder under the Files

& Bookmarks tab.

Anyone can join the IDOE Medicaid in Schools Community on Learning Connection. Whether or not their district participates in Medicaid claiming, members can help themselves to web links, assistance program information and directories, and other resources to help students with and without disabilities who have unmet medical, mental health, dental, housing, nutritional or other needs.

Schools and Communities Str-r-etch to Help Students in Need

The internet and professional association journals present studies, reports and policy paper about the apparent connections between children's health and well-being and their ability to learn. The federal Medicaid agency recently published one such report outcome demonstrating the links between health care coverage for children and long term educational benefits. Those interested in reading a related article can do so at <http://www.cbpp.org/blog/medicaid-at-50-covering-children-has-long-term-educational-benefits>.

Through daily exposure to many challenges resulting from the unmet needs of a growing number of students who are living in poverty, living with untreated mental illness and addiction, exposed to violence, or living with ill and addicted parents, schools are well aware of these important connections. Many school districts are turning to

parents, local businesses, nonprofits, other community partners and government- or grant-funded programs to help prepare children in their communities for college, careers, adulthood and citizenship in our nation's democracy. Indiana's State Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz recognizes this trend and recently noted "the importance of wrap-around services to ensure that our students have the support they need to excel both in and outside the classroom" when she visited the Vigo County Schools' Back to School Rally (see the 8/10/2015 *DOE Dialogue* for details and a photo of this Vigo County event).

In addition to conducting local needs assessment and analyzing gaps in available funding and services, Indiana K-12 schools and their community partners are creating [new programs](#), forging [stronger links](#) between schools and existing [local programs](#) or services, ap-

plying for [grants](#), and participating in [pilot projects](#) to improve students' [access to needed services](#) and [supports](#).

[Federal](#), [state](#) and [nonprofit](#) agencies offer [programs](#), [services](#), [grants](#) and other funding to help [expand local communities' capacity](#) to meet the [needs of school-age children](#) and [youth](#). Surf the internet to identify [resources](#) available via [state](#) and [local](#) health departments, [maternal](#), [child health](#) and [nutrition](#) programs, state, [federal](#) and [nonprofit](#) agencies' [dental](#), [immunization](#), [mental health](#), [addiction](#), [HIV/Aids](#), [asthma](#), [diabetes](#), [etc.](#), [diagnosis](#), [treatment](#) and [prevention](#) services. Watch the Special Ed Directors and Medicaid in Schools Learning Connection communities for [announcements](#) of [grants](#), [pilot projects](#), [programs](#), [services](#), [helplines](#), agency [directories](#) and [other resources](#) to [help schools](#) help students succeed.



