

Medicaid and the Choice Scholarship Program

Key Points

- Just because a student receives Medicaid benefits does not mean that they will automatically be approved for a Choice Scholarship or found in the Choice Scholarship Eligibility System (CSES).
- To be identified in the CSES then the Medicaid application submitted to the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) needed to include income that met the free or reduced income guidelines to qualify a student for a 90% award amount.
- If a household did not submit a Medicaid application with income information to FSSA or if the income information does not meet the 90% income eligibility guidelines, the Medicaid recipient will not be found in the CSES.
- If not identified in the CSES, households can always submit household size and income to the school to satisfy Choice income eligibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. My children receive Medicaid but the school says they are not located in the CSES, why not?

Medicaid eligibility does not automatically approve children for the CSES. Schools are only able to apply for students without collecting household size and income based on Medicaid if they are matched in the CSES. For more information see the key points above.

2. If I have a letter from FSSA or my Medicaid case manager states my kids receive Medicaid benefits, will they be found in the CSES?

No, a letter from the state agency does not automatically include a student in the CSES due to Medicaid because it does not show if income reported on the Medicaid application meets the 90% income eligibility guidelines.

3. Can I provide my Medicaid case number to qualify for the CSES?

No, a Medicaid case number on an application does not show if the Medicaid application included income that fits within the 90% income eligibility guidelines. Ask the school to look up your Medicaid case number in the CSES system, but if the number cannot be found, the household must submit an application using household size and income.

4. We were found in the CSES due to Medicaid last year, but this year we weren't. Nothing has changed with our Medicaid benefits, so what is going on?

Households are typically required to update their information or reapply for Medicaid every year. The income reported on the Medicaid application might no longer meet the 90% income eligibility guidelines.

5. I recently adopted my foster child but the school says he is not automatically eligible. What's going on?

Adopted children are no longer considered foster and are no longer income eligible based on foster status. While the adopted child might receive Medicaid, the student would need to be identified in the CSES in order to not have to utilize household size and income for a Choice Scholarship.

6. I recently filed/applied for Medicare. Why is my student not showing up in the CSES?

CSES is updated at the beginning of each month with information from the previous month. New enrollment information will not be available until the start of the following month. Additionally, being found in the CSES is dependent on household income as covered in the prior questions.

Have additional questions? Contact your Choice school that you are working with. Choice income guidelines can be found at www.doe.in.gov/choice.