



## ***NH Medicaid to Schools***

- ***What is Medicaid?***

Medicaid is a health insurance program that covers millions of people, including children and adolescents. Eligibility varies by state but 49 states (including DC) cover children with incomes up to at least **200% of the federal poverty line**. Close to **37% of all school-aged children** receive health coverage through Medicaid. While Medicaid spending on school-based health services **represents less than 1 percent of total Medicaid spending**, it represents the **fourth largest federal program directed at public school**

- ***What is the Medicaid to Schools Program?***

Medicaid to Schools is a benefit of the NH Medicaid state plan that offers local education agencies and school administrative units the opportunity to receive federal Medicaid dollars to **offset costs for Medicaid covered services performed by qualified medical or behavioral health treatment providers in a school setting** to a NH Medicaid eligible student. Parent consent to access a child's Medicaid insurance is required.

- ***What are the most recent changes to the Medicaid to Schools guidelines?***

The **May 2023 Updated School-Based Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming Guide** is the first comprehensive update in **two decades!** Clarifies and consolidates the policies put forth in the 1997 and 2003 guidance, and **expands the flexibilities** that states have to streamline administrative claiming for school-based Medicaid Services. The guide reinforces the **scope of Medicaid services provided in schools**, including encouraging states to **expand reimbursement of these services to all students**, not just those identified for special education or served under a Chapter 504 Plan. It expands access to Medicaid services for students, including **evaluations, counseling, mental health screenings, substance use services, and nursing services**, such as medication monitoring.

- ***What are some examples of school-based Medicaid reimbursable services?***

Evaluations that result in placement and reevaluations; IEP related services; Nursing care services (including screenings); Tobacco cessation; Crisis intervention and stabilization; PT, OT, and services for individuals with speech, hearing, and language disorder; Translation/Interpretation services, and Transportation.

- ***Why is the Medicaid to Schools Program Important?***

1. Medicaid provides health services to students living in poverty who otherwise wouldn't have access to doctors. **Districts can receive reimbursement for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of students' health problems**, often identifying and treating issues before they become more costly and challenging down the road. Medicaid funding **allows school districts to conduct important early health screenings** – such as screenings for **vision, hearing, and mental health issues** – for low-income students, and many of these students rely on schools to provide these services.
2. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **schools are obligated** to provide **medically-necessary services to students with disabilities**. However, **Congress has never funded IDEA at the levels it promised forty years ago**, and schools are required to serve more students every year on fewer resources. Medicaid funding can help ease this burden on schools because schools can be **reimbursed** for **providing those medically necessary services to students with disabilities**.

## NH Medicaid to Schools Historical Revenue - North Hampton

District	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
North Hampton	\$37,386.81	\$36,415.09	\$41,779.73	\$54,248.52

### *Professional Development*

On August 28th, Mary Toomey, Assistant Superintendent and Gretchen Roussin Drost, the Consultant supporting SAU21's claiming and reporting data, provided an in-depth review of the NH Medicaid to Schools Program, including recent guideline changes and detailed information to support expanded record-keeping aimed at maximizing reimbursement revenue. Special Education Teachers/Case Managers, Educational Assistants, Psychologists, Social Workers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Nurses, Administrative Assistants, and Special Services Directors attended this comprehensive convening. Additional school-based "road-shows" are planned to support technical assistance with record keeping requirements.

