

Medicaid for Texas Schools

A cost-saving program for Texas school districts

What is the Texas Medicaid (SHARS) program?

The Texas Medicaid (SHARS) program was designed to allow Texas school districts to bill the Federal Medicaid Program for the health-related services provided to special education students, which the Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to provide. The Federal Medicaid Program will reimburse school districts for approximately 60% of the cost of these services for eligible students.

What happened to permit Texas?

In 1988, the U.S. Congress passed the "Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act" (P.L. 100-360), which included a provision allowing local school districts to bill the Federal Medicaid Program for these services.

Will the money collected go directly to my child?

No. The money is a reimbursement of dollars already spent by your local school district on behalf of all children in the Special Education Program. The money will be paid to the school district, the "provider" of the health-related service. Indirectly, this new source of funding will help ALL children and reduce the cost to local taxpayers.

Will this program affect my child's regular Medicaid coverage?

No. The school Medicaid program is specific to special education services delivered in our school district and is separate from the Medicaid program supported by the State of Texas. This program has no impact on the coverage for your child's normal medical expenses.

Is our family's income the only criteria for Medicaid coverage?

No. The "Katie Beckett" waiver provides coverage for children with severe disabilities who are being cared for at home. If a child meets the medical criteria for this program, the income of the parents is not considered in determining eligibility for Medicaid.

If you would like more information about Medicaid you may contact the Medicaid Client Hot-Line at 1-800-252-8263

Notification

Local Education Agencies (LEA), such as school districts, are eligible to receive federal Medicaid reimbursement for medically necessary services provided to their special education students when the services meet the requirements of the state's school-based Medicaid program and are provided in accordance with the students' IEP's (§300.124(d)(2)(i)-(iii)).

The Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) require schools to notify parents that the district participates in this program. The district utilizes services ordered in the IEP and the Medicaid identification number, in conjunction with the state Medicaid Agency and our Medicaid billing agent, to receive reimbursement for these services from the School-Based Medicaid program.

The district's participation in this program in no way impacts the services being provided to the student nor impacts the family's Medicaid benefits. At any time, parents can notify the school district in the event they no longer want the district to access student information for the purposes of seeking reimbursements through this program.

Covered Services:

- Audiology Services
- Assessment/Evaluation
- Counseling Services
- Nursing Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Personal Care
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Services
- Psychological Services
- Special Transportation
- Speech/Language Therapy



A Note to Parents and/or Guardians:

In our continuing effort to provide the highest quality of service delivery, our school district has been approved as a provider for the School Health and Related Services (SHARS) program, Medicaid for Texas schools. If your child is covered under the Medicaid program, we can obtain funding from Medicaid to offset local expenditures. The SHARS program will reimburse the district for a portion of the cost of providing the covered services, as determined by the Admission, Review, and Dismissal committee and stated in your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).