



School Based ACCESS Program

Program Overview

The School Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) is a cooperative effort between the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW), and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

It allows the school to request reimbursement for services provided to special education students who are eligible for Medical Assistance. Reimbursement is made from a special fund administered by the State Department of Human Services in cooperation with Medicaid.

Services eligible for reimbursement include Speech Therapy, Nursing services, Occupational Therapy, Personal Care Services, Physical Therapy, Hearing and Audiology Services, and Special Transportation.

Reimbursements we receive are required to be used within the Special Education Program. CASD uses these funds to provide additional supports and interventions to our special education students through the purchase of adaptive equipment and materials to support our students' IEP goals.

Program Guidelines

To participate in the Program, the District is required to enroll in the State Medicaid Program as a Public School Provider. As part of the enrollment and approval, we have agreed to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations and policies with regard to the Pennsylvania MA Program. The program requires that any health-related services provided to the student must be defined in the student's IEP, be deemed medically necessary, and are ordered or prescribed by a licensed practitioner.

IDEA and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations require that schools obtain written parental permission to disclose personally identifiable information about a student in order to bill MA under SBAP.

The Notification form describes the safeguards in place to protect student and parental rights before the District accesses the student's public benefits or insurance to pay for services under the Program. The notification is presented for review annually within the body of the IEP.

The Consent form requests parental approval for the District to have a physician review the student's IEP to verify the services provided are appropriate and necessary, and allows CASD to bill ACCESS through SBAP for services provided, as recommended in the IEP.



Parental Consent FAQ's

If I give consent for the school to bill MA, will it affect the services my child receives outside of school?

No, any payment made to the School District through the School Based Program is separate from any payments or claims under Medicaid for services outside of school. MA will continue to pay for medically necessary health-related services your child receives outside of school. It will not affect a child or family's MA services, funds, or limits in any way.

If I consent, who else will see my child's information?

In order to bill, the State MA Program requires that a medical practitioner review your child's IEP to determine that the services are medically necessary. The District has contracted with a Medicaid Approved and Licensed physician to review student IEP's.

Will I have to pay a monthly premium or make any co-payments?

No, the state does not charge a premium for children who qualify for MA under PH Category 95 (disability category). There are no co-payments for school-based services.

Will my child benefit from the funds the school receives?

The State Department of Education has strict guidelines that require the reimbursement only be spent within the special education program. Because your child is in the special education program, they will benefit from this reimbursement.

How can schools use the funds?

CASD can use the funds for many expenses within the special education program. These include, but are not limited to: hiring and training staff, purchasing equipment and materials such as computers, special education classroom and student supplies, and assistive technology.

If I consent, but later change my mind, does the school have to return the MA funds it received on behalf of my child?

No, the school district does not have to return the funds it received after you gave consent. However, the district will stop billing MA as of the date you revoke consent.

How does the school know my child is eligible for MA?

Just like any physician or clinic, the School District must enroll in the State Medicaid Program as a Public School Provider. This allows the school, after receiving consent, to access MA eligibility information. The school is required by law to keep personal information confidential.