COLORADO
School Health Services Program

School Health Services-Parent Guide and Frequently Asked Questions

What is the School Health Services Program?

- The School Health Services (SHS) Program allows school districts to get partial reimbursement from the state and federal government for providing health services to Medicaid enrolled students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 plan, or other medical plans of care.
- The reimbursement dollars are used to improve school health services for all students.

Can my child still get health services outside of school?

Yes. This program does **not** change or take away any health services your child gets outside of school.

Do school districts need parental consent to share health information and receive reimbursement?

Yes. Schools must have consent to share student health information including Special Education IEP plans, 504 plans, and other medical plans of care (health care plans, behavior, safety, etc.)

Who will be able to see my child's information?

Under the Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA), only the following can see your child's school health records:

- School health providers
- Your child's private doctor
- A billing agent
- Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program)

What are my parental rights?

Every year parents will receive a Notification of Rights, which includes their right to:

- Withdraw or refuse consent at any time
- Not have health services affected if consent is refused
- Not required to have benefits to receive health services
- Not to have out-of-pocket costs or have their benefits negatively impacted

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My child is not currently eligible for Medicaid benefits. Do I still need to sign consent?

Yes. Your consent to share information will remain on file in case your child becomes eligible later. You may withdraw your consent at any time.

How do schools spend the reimbursement?

Colorado law states that the reimbursement must be used on health services for students. Schools across the state use the reimbursement for things like:

- Nursing Services
- Mental Health Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Language Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Medical Supplies/Equipment
- Dental/Vision vouchers



Reach out to your school's SHS contact, typically known as the Medicaid Coordinator, to see how the reimbursement is spent at your school.

For more information about this program, contact:

Colorado Department of Education School Health Services

https://ed.cde.state.co.us/shs/medicaid-home#contact

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Department of Health Care Policy and Financing-School Health Services Program

https://hcpf.colorado.gov/school-health-services

School Health Services Program Administrator

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