

Health Services in Schools: Medicaid and Special Education Services



Health services in schools.

- Services provided in schools can play an important role in child and adolescent health care.
- Many services are already provided in schools: through school-based health clinics, school nurses, or through special education programs. This includes services such as mental health services and physical, occupational, and speech therapies.
- Some of these services can be covered by Medicaid.

Medicaid services for children.

- Medicaid requires that children under age 21 get Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services, or **EPSDT**.
- EPSDT covers screenings (checkups) and treatment for medical, mental health, dental, vision, and hearing problems.
- Treatment includes services that can be provided in schools, like:
 - ✓ **Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.**
 - ✓ **Vaccinations.**
 - ✓ **Hearing and vision screenings.**
 - ✓ **Behavioral health services.**
 - ✓ **Personal care and aide services.**

Services for children with disabilities.

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or **IDEA**, requires that children with disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
- Children between ages 3 and 21 receive an Individual Education Program Plan (**IEP**).
- The **IEP** lists the special education and “related services” that a child needs.

IDEA “Related Services.”

- Related services are services that a child with a disability needs to benefit from special education services.
- They can include:
 - ✓ **Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.**
 - ✓ **Counseling services.**
 - ✓ **One-on-one aides.**
- Some of these services are the same as those covered by Medicaid.

Medicaid can cover IDEA services for a Medicaid-enrolled child with a disability if:

- ✓ **The services fit into a Medicaid category.**
- ✓ **The services are medically necessary.**
- ✓ **The school or provider is licensed by the Medicaid agency.**

How can I find out more?

- ✓ **Talk to your school’s special education director.**
- ✓ **Contact your [state Medicaid agency](#).**
- ✓ **Check out information from the [federal government](#) and [your state](#) about [EPSDT](#), including this [Guide](#):**

