



**“Free Care”–Medicaid in Schools
Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare and Family
Services**

**Kristi Putnam, Deputy Secretary
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Medicaid in Schools

- For several decades, Medicaid has played a critical role in providing school-based health services for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Kentucky education leaders have recognized the importance of having health and behavioral health clinicians on school campuses, yet funding for school-based health providers has been a challenge.
- Providing health services in the school setting can help address immediate health care needs, connect students to behavioral health services, and keep students learning.

Medicaid in Schools

- The Cabinet is seeking an amendment to its Medicaid state plan to allow for the payment of qualifying physical and mental health services.
- CMS guidance allows certain entities to bill Medicaid when they provide a service free to others.
- If approved, Medicaid will be able to reimburse for medically necessary services provided to any Medicaid enrolled child when available to all children at no charge.

Medicaid in Schools

- Districts across the Commonwealth will be able to leverage federal Medicaid funding to increase access to school-based health services. Services could include:
 - Comprehensive health screenings
 - Certain mental health services
 - Diabetes and asthma management and more.
- Individual school districts will be able to decide the specific services they want to provide based on needs.
- In order for services to be reimbursable, they must be provided by an appropriately licensed provider.

Timeline

- CHFS/DMS submitted the state plan amendment on 4/28/19; CMS has 90 days to review and approve.
- CHFS and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) are working jointly on communications to school districts and the public.
- FAQs and technical assistance will be provided over the summer.
- If approved, school districts can begin billing for Medicaid-eligible services/students when school starts in August.
- We anticipate schools will phase in “free care” over the 2019-2020 school year.

Questions?