

School-Based Behavioral Health Services: Options* for Schools to Provide Behavioral Health Services

Option 1

Identify current school district staff who can provide related services (e.g., Certified PA School Psychologist, Licensed Social Worker or Licensed Professional Counselor). A school district that is an approved School Based Access Program (SBAP) can receive federal Medicaid reimbursement for providing physical health related services to Medical Assistance eligible students, ages 3 to 21, who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Qualified Service Providers

- Psychiatric services must be provided by a Medical Doctor (MD) specializing in psychiatry or a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) specializing in psychiatry, meeting the SBAP qualifications. Services are rendered to study, diagnose, treat, and if possible, prevent mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders.
- Psychological services must be provided by an individual possessing one of the following: Licensed in Psychology as issued by the State Board of Psychology or Certification as a School Psychologist issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Social Work Services may be authorized by an MD, DO, or a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP). The service may also be determined through an evaluation or assessment, and provided by one of the following: Licensed Social Worker (LCSW or LSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

Option 2

Permit a private, individual, licensed clinician to have space in the school building to meet with students. Examples include: a Licensed Psychiatrist, a Licensed Pennsylvania Psychologist, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) or a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

- For a private insurance company to be billed, the private licensed clinician must be enrolled in the student's private insurance company's network.
- For Pennsylvania Medical Assistance (PA MA) to be billed, the student must have a PA MA card and the private licensed clinician must be an enrolled MA provider within the region's Managed Care Organizations (MCO) network.
- In this scenario, the clinician can only bill for direct care time with the identified student. Depending on the clinician's enrollment with PA MA and the MCO, they may be able to see the student both in the school and in the student's home.

* Schools may provide other individualized approaches that are not mentioned in this document.

continued ...

Option 3

Permit a current Pennsylvania Medicaid enrolled/Managed Care Organization in-network mental health provider to have a satellite outpatient clinic in the school building. This clinician would be able to see students individually in a designated office that meets the Managed Care Organization (MCO) requirements (e.g., a door that can be closed, locked filing cabinets).

In this scenario, the clinician can only bill for direct care time with the identified client. If the mental health provider is also licensed to provide Mobile Therapy, use of Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) referral process could permit a Mobile Therapist (versus an outpatient therapist) to see the client in their home.

Option 4

Develop a private contract directly with a licensed clinician/mental health provider agency. This clinician/mental health provider agency would be able to have direct care with students and also be able to collaborate with staff around planning. In this scenario, the mental health provider would not bill the student's health insurance; they would be funded 100 percent by the school.

Option 5

A combination of the previous examples.