

Background on School-Based Medicaid

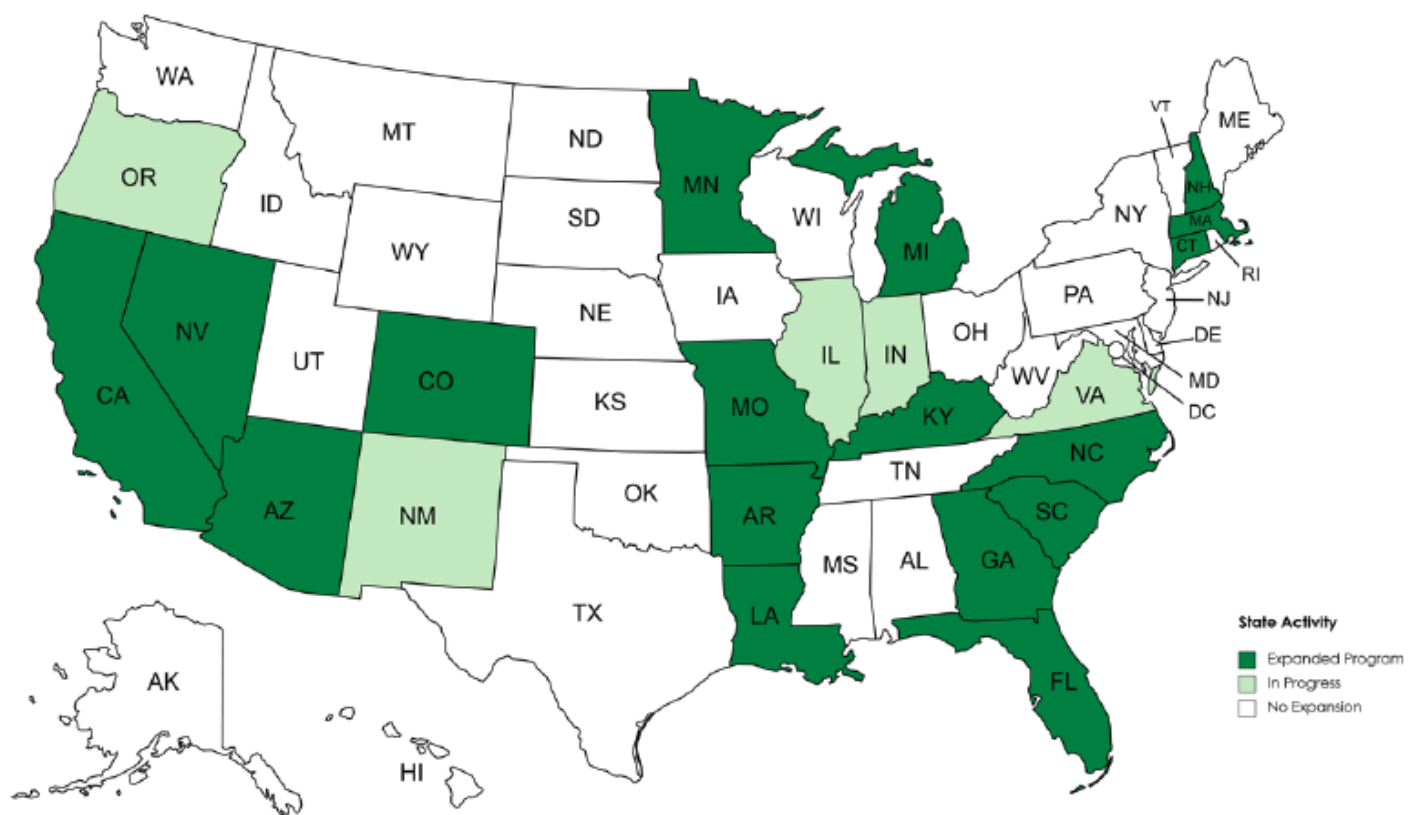
- For 30 years, Medicaid has paid for eligible school physical and behavioral health services included in students' Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
 - While Medicaid spending on school-based health services represents less than 1 percent of total Medicaid spending, it's significant for schools
 - There are several ways that schools are entitled to reimbursement from Medicaid:
 - Provide direct medical/health-related services to children who are eligible for Medicaid
 - Perform administrative activities in support of the state Medicaid plan
 - A combination of these both
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The Opportunity

- Historically, Medicaid would only pay for health services included in the IEPs of students enrolled in Medicaid
- A 2014 change in federal policy is an opportunity to expand school-based services to ALL Medicaid-enrolled students
 - This is known as the free care policy reversal

Medicaid Free Care Policy Reversal

- Medicaid reimbursement no longer restricted to students with an IEP
- Medicaid will reimburse for services to all Medicaid-enrolled students
- States can choose to expand school-based Medicaid programs to all students
- Some states must submit state plan amendment (SPA) to expand their program to all students; others can take state administrative or legislative actions



Examples of Eligible School Health Providers

- Nurse practitioner
- Registered nurse
- Licensed practical nurse
- Health technician
- Certified school psychologist
- Credentialed school counselor
- Credentialed school social worker
- Licensed marriage and family therapist
- Speech language pathologist
- Occupational therapist

Financial Impact of Expanding School Medicaid Programs

- Colorado expanded their program in February 2020 and in the first year of expansion saw an increase \$6 million or 12% increase in federal Medicaid revenue (note: this was during the first year of the pandemic).
- Louisiana was the first state to expand their program, focusing solely on school nursing services, and saw a 35% increase in federal Medicaid revenue.
- North Carolina expanded in January 2019 and has seen a 35% increase year-over-year in federal Medicaid revenue.