



A Parent's guide to understanding the Colorado School Services Health Program

What's the background on the School Health Services Program?

The PPBOCES has participated in the School Services Health Program since 1999. Initially referred to as the "School Medicaid Program" the program is now entitled Health First Colorado but is also known as the Colorado Medicaid Program. This program allows school districts to seek partial reimbursement from Medicaid for health and health related services provided to Medicaid-eligible students with an Individual Education Program (IEP). Health related services include; Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language therapy, orientation/mobility/vision services, psychological/counseling/social work services, nursing services, personal care services and specialized transportation.

How are the funds from Medicaid used within the PPBOCES?

Colorado law requires reimbursement funds be used to provide expanded health and health related services to ALL students within the BOCES. These enhanced services can include vision/hearing screenings, access to emergency medication/dental services, additional nursing support, and medical supplies and equipment. The PPBOCES has a five year Local Service Plan (LSP) which was created by a group of school and community stakeholders. This plan details the ways funds are utilized during the five year period.

What is my part as a parent of a child with a disability?

Special education law requires a one-time parent consent for the BOCES to submit claims for reimbursement to Medicaid for the health related services rendered to your child. Even if your child is not currently Medicaid eligible this consent allows us to seek reimbursement should your child become eligible. Annually you will be provided a Notification of Access to Benefits. IEP health services provided by the school and reimbursed to the district **do not** affect your child's lifetime Medicaid benefits. Private insurance does not pay for IEP health related services provided in school and participation in this program does not effect any private insurance benefits.

What about Confidentiality?

Federal privacy laws state only school health service providers, your child's private doctor, district Medicaid billing agent and Colorado's Medicaid Agency will see your child's school health records.

For additional questions contact the PPBOCES School Services Health Program Coordinator @ (719) 380-6218