School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS)

**SBHS Overview**
The Washington State School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS) program is an optional Medicaid program administered by the Health Care Authority (HCA). The SBHS program reimburses contracted school districts (SDs), educational service districts (ESDs), and charter and tribal schools for Medicaid covered health related services provided to Medicaid eligible students. In order to receive Medicaid reimbursement through this program, services must be included in the child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). School-based IEP/IFSP health related services are carved out of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and are reimbursed fee-for-service.

**Covered Services**
To receive reimbursement, covered services must be referred or prescribed by a physician or licensed practitioner of the healing arts, provided by Department of Health (DOH) licensed providers, must be written in the child’s IEP or IFSP, and must be provided in a school setting or via telemedicine.

Covered services include and are limited to:

- Evaluations to determine if a student needs special education or early intervention health related services as part of the IEP or IFSP.
- Reevaluations to determine whether a student continues to be eligible for special education or early intervention health related services.
- Health related services included in the child’s IEP or IFSP, limited to:
  - Audiology services
  - Counseling services
  - Nursing services
  - Occupational therapy services
  - Physical therapy services
  - Psychological assessments
  - Speech-language therapy services

**Provider Qualifications**
To receive Medicaid reimbursement through the SBHS program, services must be provided by qualified providers who meet federal and state requirements and hold current licensure with the WA State Department of Health (DOH). Providers may be school staff or contracted providers. Eligible providers include and are limited to:

- Audiologists
- Occupational therapists
- Occupational therapy assistants
- Physical therapists
- Physical therapy assistants
- Speech language pathologists
- Speech language pathology assistants
- RNs, LPNs, and school staff delegated certain nursing tasks
- Licensed clinical social workers
- Licensed advanced clinical social workers
- Licensed mental health counselors
- Licensed mental health counselor associates
- Psychologists

**Benefits of SBHS Program**
Medicaid reimbursement allows school districts to recover a portion of the costs incurred when providing health related services to special education students who are eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid reimbursements may be used to offset these costs by allowing districts to:

- Fully or partially fund school staff
- Purchase assistive technology
- Pay for professional development activities
- Other necessary expenses

**Questions?**
Shanna Muirhead
SBHS Program Manager
Health Care Authority
shanna.muirhead@hca.wa.gov
Tel: 360-725-1153