



Anchorage

3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923
Main: 907.269.7800
Fax: 907.269.0060

Juneau

P.O. Box 110601
350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.306

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 240

Senate Bill 240: School District Medical Assistance

Senate Bill 240 improves access to school-based Medicaid services for Medicaid-eligible children. The bill removes statutory requirements that school based services are only Medicaid reimbursable if a child receiving services is diagnosed with a disability and the services are included in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

What are school-based Medicaid services?

School-based Medicaid services include speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, audiology, some behavioral health and nursing services.

Why is this bill needed?

This bill supports schools in providing services to Medicaid-eligible children by removing statutory barriers that limit access to school-based services. The bill promotes efficient use of school resources and increases the potential to leverage federal matching funds by enabling schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services provided.

School-based services can play an important role in the health of students and provide an opportunity to meet children where they are and deliver services in a setting where they spend a majority of their time. Simplifying the eligibility requirements for school-based services is anticipated to support families in obtaining services they need.

Does this bill add coverage for new school-based Medicaid services?

No. This bill does not add new services, but expands access to any Medicaid eligible child, rather than only children with a disability, or services included in an IEP.

Are Alaska schools currently billing Medicaid for services?

Only six out of 54 school districts currently bill Medicaid for school-based services.

Are organizations supportive of increasing eligibility for School-Based Medicaid Services?

Over the last year, DOH engaged in meaningful dialogue with statewide partners through the Behavioral Health Roadmap for Youth initiative. Communities and stakeholders expressed support for increasing access to school-based services throughout the state in order to meet the needs of Alaska's youth.