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WISCONSIN MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES FACT SHEET

The Wisconsin Medicaid school-based services (SBS) benefit is a way for school districts and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) to receive more federal funds to help pay for medically related special education and associated services. Obtaining reimbursement from Wisconsin Medicaid for these services helps your school district receive more money for your school's budget. In 2004, Wisconsin schools received approximately \$20.1 million from Wisconsin Medicaid for school-based services.

Under the SBS benefit:

- School districts, CESAs, County Children with Disabilities Education Boards, and charter schools can seek reimbursement from Wisconsin Medicaid for school-based services, such as speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and nursing services, if the services are included in the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Whether or not your child's school district seeks Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement for school-based services does *not* influence approval or denial of prior authorization (PA) requests for community (non-school-based services) therapies.

Parents should note that Wisconsin Medicaid medical consultants who review PA requests for community therapies:

- Do *not* review SBS claims data.
- Approve community therapy based on medical necessity and *not* on financial limitations.
- Review each child's IEP and any other information regarding therapies received at the school, in the home, or elsewhere when community (non-school-based services) services are requested, regardless of whether or not the school seeks SBS reimbursement. Consultants must review the services your child is currently receiving so that Wisconsin Medicaid does not reimburse for unnecessary services.

Wisconsin Medicaid requires schools and other health care providers to work together to ensure that your child receives coordinated services.

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