

School Based Medical Access Program

What is School Based Medical Access?

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and Federal Law allows school districts (with parental consent) to seek reimbursement from a program called the School Based Access Program (SBAP). SBAP is funded through Medical Assistance (MA) for healthcare services provided to the student.

Eligibility for this program is not based on family or student income and does not require a co-pay. It is available to students who have an eligible disability and require certain health-based related services. Both the student and the school district can benefit from SBAP.

What school services are eligible for participation in the School Based Access Program?

- ◇ Assistive Technology Devices
- ◇ Hearing
- ◇ Personal Care Assistant
- ◇ Audiology
- ◇ Nursing
- ◇ Occupational Therapy
- ◇ Physical Therapy
- ◇ Psychiatry
- ◇ Psychology
- ◇ Social Work
- ◇ Speech

What does this program mean to me as a parent?

Participation in the School Based Access Program does not affect the services that your child receives through their school program.

Enrollment in Medical Assistance could provide your child with community or home-based services. Your child needs to apply and be approved for Medical Assistance. The Mental Health Specialist at your child's school can provide more information.

A child may qualify for Medical Assistance if they have a disability or special health care needs regardless of family/parental income or financial assets. A list of eligible disabilities is available from your school.

What if my child already has health insurance?

A child can qualify for Medical Assistance even if they have other insurance.

How does SBAP benefit the school?

The District may receive partial reimbursement for the cost of specific eligible services provided for your child.

What does having Medical Assistance mean to my child?

At present children between ages 3 - 21 who have Medical Assistance are entitled to all medically necessary health care services and treatment. It currently does not exclude any pre-existing conditions. Services currently include:

- Behavioral Health Services
- Psychological Services
- Psychiatric Services
- Prescriptions without co-pay
- Summer Therapeutic Camp
- Family-based Services
- Community Waiver Programs
- Certain health related supplies

How do I apply for Medical Assistance?

The application may be done online through the Pennsylvania online service COMPASS and can be found at www.compass.state.pa.us

I looked online and the process looks overwhelming!

Our Mental Health Specialists and Student Services Department can help. They will provide you with more information about Medical Assistance and the application process.

What if my family has unique considerations not related to my child's disability?

Contact the Mental Health Specialist for your school.

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