

# A Healthy Child is Ready and Able to Learn!

**All Massachusetts students deserve access to critical school health services provided by highly qualified school health professionals.**

- **The Problem:** Not all MA schools have fulltime school nurses, or other health services.
- **The Opportunity:** Through a new federal regulation, additional Medicaid resources are available to support school health services in MA.

## ***Quality school health services helps to keep children in school and able to succeed!***

Children with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, anxiety, depression, cystic fibrosis, seizure disorders and other conditions often have difficulty succeeding in school when their condition is not well controlled. Research shows that providing health services in schools can be an integral piece of addressing health disparities—especially for children of color and children living in low-income households.

## ***Does your school district need additional resources to keep children healthy?***

Schools already invest in some health services and staff.

Some schools currently bill MassHealth for professional health services, mostly for students in special education programs. Due to a change in federal regulation, MA schools may bill MassHealth for health services provided to ALL students enrolled in Medicaid. These funds could make it possible for schools to hire additional school health staff, allowing for more services for students with chronic health conditions, as well as a broad range of health services, such as mental health, vision screenings, and fluoride varnishing for all students. This could help schools to keep kids in the classroom – learning!

## TAKE ACTION!

- ✓ Ask your school district to bill MassHealth for eligible services, supporting children's access to health services
- ✓ Share information about MassHealth billing with your parents, principal, school staff and superintendent
- ✓ Encourage parents to advocate for more high-quality school health services
- ✓ Support policies to designate the provision of MassHealth funds for school health directly to local school districts vs the general municipal budget.

## ***Schools must choose to bill MassHealth!***

However, there's not always incentive for school decision makers. Currently MassHealth funds go into a general fund for the town or city and not back into the school budget. Parents, school staff and the public need to demand lawmakers to ensure school health dollars are invested in our children inside their schools. MassHealth billing can be complicated, especially for small districts. There are billing companies that can help support MassHealth billing through consortiums.

**We must care for All children where they are—in schools.  
To learn more or find out how you can help, contact:**

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