



House Education Committee

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School Based Health Services (School Medicaid)

- The State Medicaid Agency administers a state's Medicaid program. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is Oregon's State Medicaid Agency, and its Health Systems Division has the authority over, and administers, the School Based Health Services (School Medicaid) program and associated rules and regulations.
- As the State Education Agency, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary schools and secondary schools. ODE provides support to school districts and programs for efficient and sustainable Medicaid billing, alignment of education systems and processes in schools, interpreting education rules and regulations, and navigating the crossover between health and education.
- Together, OHA and ODE partner to provide training, technical assistance, guidance, and resources for school districts and programs.

Background: Senate Bill 111 (2017)

- In 2017, responding to the shortage of school nurses in Oregon schools, SB 111 directed the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), to provide technical assistance to at least nine school districts or Education Service Districts (ESDs) in the implementation of a School Medicaid program.
- In October 2020, the ODE submitted the [Senate Bill 111: School Medicaid pilot Project Report](#) to the legislature.
- The report documents the pilot project, provides a summary of key findings, barriers and potential solutions, and offers legislative recommendations.

SB 111: State-Level Findings & Recommendations

Primary Findings	Key Legislative Recommendations
<p>Licensed Health Practitioners. Oregon schools continue to have a significant shortage of licensed practitioners. This shortage makes meeting state and federal education requirements difficult. This also impacts the ability for school districts to bill Medicaid.</p>	<p>Focus on School Health Services. Increase state-level investment to ESDs and school districts to increase health services staffing and better support board-licensed practitioners working in the school setting.</p>
<p>State and Regional Support. Training and professional development are critical to support consistent implementation of state and federal rules related to education, health services, and Medicaid.</p>	<p>Regional Supports. Dedicate funding to support ESDs as regional supports for school district billing and/or funding to help school districts implement Medicaid billing programs.</p>
<p>State Agency Partnership and Coordination. Partnership between ODE, OHA, state licensing boards, and other state agencies is critical to increase and maintain program efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance. This includes coordination of communication to the field, professional development, system development, workforce development, and data collection.</p>	<p>State Agency Capacity and Coordination. Continue to support ODE and OHA to improve and expand School Medicaid billing in Oregon.</p>
<p>Technology. Technology plays an integral role in efficient and accurate School Medicaid billing. The absence of a statewide student information system, IEP system, documentation system for health services, aligned with a statewide Medicaid billing submission platform make a streamlined approach to billing difficult.</p>	<p>Statewide Technology. Invest in the development and implementation of statewide technology solutions (i.e., student information system, IEP system, documentation system for health services, Medicaid billing).</p> <p>Telehealth. Invest in telehealth infrastructure, including platforms, internet access in rural and remote areas, and training.</p>

SB 111: School District-Level Lessons Learned

- Each Oregon school district is reflective of their community and is unique in physical structure, staffing, geographic location, student demographics, and size. Each school district develops their own School Medicaid billing processes, cost rates, and billing priorities.
- Initial startup takes time and resources. In response to lessons learned during the pilot project, we have found the following factors may increase success:
 - District meets with and receive technical assistance from State School Medicaid Staff
 - District conducts a [School Medicaid Cost-Benefit Analysis](#)
 - District conducts a [School Medicaid Billing Readiness Assessment](#)
 - District utilizes the [Quality Medicaid Assurance Plan](#) to support sustainability
 - District dedicates at least partial FTE to School Medicaid program coordination
 - District starts small and builds the program year over year
 - District utilizes Medicaid reimbursement to support school health services

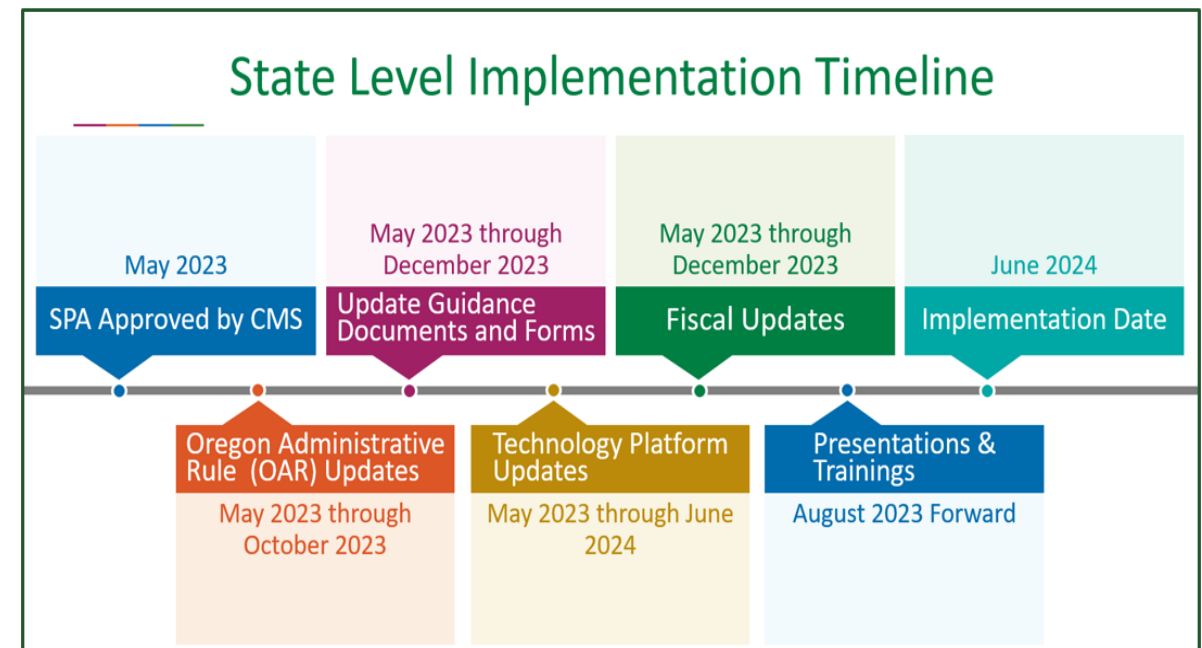
SB 111: State-Level Collaboration

The SB 111 pilot project created a strong partnership between ODE and OHA. This has reduced barriers for school districts and has led to increased technical assistance to school districts including the creation of numerous guidance documents and tools.

- ODE facilitates the School Medicaid Core Team, comprised of school districts, Education Service Districts (ESDs), and OHA.
- ODE hosts an annual school Medicaid training summit and works with OHA to provide joint training and onboarding meetings with school districts.
- ODE and OHA co-create guidance documents, which are hosted on ODE's [Medicaid in Education](#) website and shared via ODE's School Medicaid listserv.
- ODE and OHA program staff hold weekly meetings to address issues that arise, co-create responses, work on presentations, provide status updates, and align health and education work.

Opportunity: State and Federal Updates

- On May 18th, 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approved Oregon's State Plan Amendment (SPA) that expanded Medicaid to allow billing for covered non-IDEA health services
- On May 18th, 2023, CMS also released an updated guidance document for School Based Health Services entitled: [Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming.](#)



Opportunity: State and Federal Updates

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that school districts provide health services if needed by a student to access their free appropriate public education.
 - School Medicaid billing can offset the costs incurred in providing these services.
 - Medicaid reimbursement is flexible and it may be used to fund additional health services staff, purchase health service supplies and assistive technology, fund specialized transportation and teaching materials, etc.
- ODE has seen an increase in the number of school districts interested in billing. ODE and OHA continue to support school districts through:
 - Work to implement expanded billing as allowed by Oregon's updated State Plan Amendment (SPA)
 - Work to update the School Based Health Services Oregon Administrative Rules
 - Determining what flexibilities the new federal guidance may offer
 - The provision of technical assistance, training, and guidance
 - The development and update of resources and guidance

Questions?
