

RI Medicaid School Based Services

What it means for you and your child



Parental consent to access Medicaid

Rhode Island General Law 40-8-18 enables Local Education Agencies (LEAs-which means school districts or public charter schools) in Rhode Island to access reimbursement for certain evaluations and special education related services provided to Medicaid-eligible children. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires LEAs to notify parents before obtaining initial consent and to notify parents annually about this activity.

LEAs must obtain a **one-time** written informed parental consent prior to accessing Medicaid reimbursement. Each year, LEAs must provide you with written notice about this requirement. Your written consent can be revoked (withdrawn) at any time after it is given. If you revoke consent, that revocation is not retroactive (it does not apply to reimbursements sought by the LEA after your consent was given and before the date the district received your withdrawal/revocation to give consent.)

The Medicaid funds received by your LEA are used to support education for all students in your district. With your **written consent**, federal Medicaid reimbursement for services that are supported by local and state education funds can be accessed. Accessing these funds **does not affect** your child's right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

This means that there will be **no cost to your family**, which includes no co-pays, no deductibles, no loss of Medicaid eligibility or any impact on lifetime Medicaid benefits. The only **exception** to no cost can be Assistive Technology (AT) Devices. Families and districts must use **a separate consent form for AT devices** because it is possible the State Medicaid agency may deny the family the purchase of a device for use in the home if the school has sought reimbursement for the same device.

Services, including some evaluations that can be reimbursed by Medicaid:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Hearing & Language Therapy
- Nursing
- Personal Care
- Day Program Treatment
- Residential Program Treatment
- Assistive Technology Services (excluding some devices)
- Child Outreach Screening
- Case Management
- Counseling
- Transportation

For more information or to obtain a copy for your records please visit:

www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/Overview.aspx

www.ripin.org

www.psnri.org

www.eohhs.ri.gov/ProvidersPartners/GeneralInformation/ProviderDirectories/LocalEducationAgency.aspx

For help with disagreements with your school about special education issues, call the Special Education Call Center: 401-222-8999.