

Arlington Public Schools: Medicaid/Consent-Specific Question and Answer

How can APS “seek reimbursement from Medicaid” for related services when school districts are required to provide Free and Appropriate Education?

The Medicaid program allows the school district to seek reimbursement from Medicaid for the cost of the related services the school district provides to all special education eligible students (In-District, Out of District, Private Pay/Services Only students). This reimbursement is considered independent to any special education team decisions and the parent/guardian response to their child’s Individual Education Program (IEP). Currently under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the school district requires parent/guardian consent in order to release the information about their child that is necessary to seek reimbursement from Medicaid.

Why does the district seek this reimbursement? Why is it important?

APS utilizes the reimbursement from Medicaid to provide valuable and necessary additional staffing to meet therapy needs of students, education for staff to learn new therapeutic techniques, assistive technology equipment, and materials for individual student needs. This provides a significant fiscal benefit to the district.

Will parent/guardian decision to provide consent to release information affect their child’s special education services?

NO...

Parent/guardian decisions about providing consent to release information about students will **NOT** affect their child’s special education programming. The services provided by the APS for special education programming will **NOT** count against students' limits for independent Medicaid programs or any privately funded independent services.

Will parent/guardian decision to provide consent to release information affect their child’s private independent medical/clinical services?

NO...

This reimbursement from Medicaid for school-based services has **NO** impact on private medical insurance, existing Medicaid benefits, or future application for Medicaid benefits by families, and/or any privately funded independent services.

What student information/data is reported by the district to seek reimbursement from Medicaid?

APS has contracted **Public Consulting Group (PCG) EasyIEP™** to maintain the school district’s special education student database and support the district’s efforts to submit for Medicaid reimbursement. All APS service providers are required document services, via the **EasyIEP™** documentation logging wizard, as set forth by district procedures - by reporting; service dates, service location (group/individual), service duration, specific service type/classification.

How does the district submit monthly Medicaid Data?

Given the data entry by APS service providers, **PCG** only submits the student data directly from **EasyIEP™** (encrypted) through a secured portal, monthly, to seek reimbursement from Medicaid. Again, APS will only submit this specific student information, provided parent/guardian consent, to seek reimbursement from Medicaid.

If parent declines to sign the Medicaid Consent form, how does the district respond?

The district will **NOT** submit student information to seek reimbursement from Medicaid for special education eligible students in which parent’s/guardian’s have **declined** to sign the Medicaid Consent Form. The district will continue to implement all special education services, per the student IEP, as accepted by the parent/guardian. The district is not able to submit a claim for services, without parent/guardian consent, and therefore will not benefit from this important fiscal benefit.