

Florida Department of Education (FDOE)
2023-2024 Medicaid Reimbursement to Public Schools and Revenue Maximization
November 2024

Florida school districts continue to receive significant reimbursement through the **Medicaid Certified School Match (MCSM) program** and the **School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC) program**. Sixty-five school districts and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind participate in both programs. The FDOE and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) continue to collaborate to review policies and technical assistance to support school districts to maximize Medicaid reimbursement.

The Florida MCSM program allows school districts to receive reimbursement under the Florida Medicaid program in accordance with 42 Code of Federal Regulations section 440.130(d). The 2020 Florida Legislature passed Committee Substitute for House Bill 81, Health Care for Children. This legislation amended section 409.9071, Florida Statutes, revising provisions for the reimbursement of school-based services by AHCA, effective July 1, 2020. This change in law eliminated the requirement that Medicaid recipients receiving services through the Florida MCSM program qualify for Part B or H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for exceptional student services or have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

Nineteen school districts utilized the FDOE-sponsored **Medicaid Tracking System** (version 2.0 or 3.0) at no cost to the district, to verify students' Medicaid eligibility, document delivered services and submit reimbursement claims for school-based direct services to AHCA.

Twenty-eight school districts participated in the no-cost **Electronic Medicaid Administrative Claiming System (EMACS)**. EMACS is the FDOE-sponsored SDAC system through which districts receive reimbursement for costs associated with Medicaid outreach activities to all students and their families, such as training, referrals, coordination and monitoring of health services. One district continues to use the paper-based version of the system.

Reimbursement History for the MCSM Program

School districts have participated in the MCSM program since 1998. Through FY 2023-2024, school districts received reimbursement for services provided in the areas of speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral services, nursing services and specialized transportation. The following data, provided by AHCA, reflects funds school districts have received for reimbursable services provided to eligible students with medical necessity through the MCSM program since FY 2018-2019:

- **FY 2018-2019 – \$20,847,933**
- **FY 2019-2020 – \$17,818,501**
- **FY 2020-2021 – \$23,099,412**
- **FY 2021-2022 – \$23,044,482**
- **FY 2022-2023 – \$24,616,595**
- **FY 2023-2024 – \$23,570,931**

During the FY 2023-2024 reporting period, all but one school district, Jefferson County Schools (JCS), received reimbursement under the MCSM program. As of October 1, 2024, JCS is enrolled as a Medicaid provider. FDOE staff continue to provide training and technical assistance to support JCS with the implementation of the Medicaid school-based services program at the district level.

Reimbursement History for the SDAC Program

School districts have participated in the SDAC program since 1998. As of October 1, 2024, school districts have received \$1,800,238,071. The following data, provided by AHCA, reflect funds that school districts have received for proper and efficient administration of the state plan to determine eligibility or support a covered service through the SDAC program since FY 2018-2019:

- **FY 2018-2019 – \$74,323,578***
- **FY 2019-2020 – \$99,579,470***
- **FY 2020-2021 – \$77,628,670***
- **FY 2021-2022 – \$56,903,026***
- **FY 2022-2023 – \$71,017,557****
- **FY 2023-2024 – \$0****

During the reporting period, all but two districts participated in the SDAC program: Glades and Jefferson. Both districts are eligible to participate in the next reporting period if certain criteria are met. FDOE staff continue to provide training and technical assistance to maximize Medicaid reimbursement.

*Final amounts, as all administrative claims filed applicable to quarters within the noted fiscal year have been paid to districts.

**Amounts are subject to change as new claims are processed. Per AHCA policy, districts must file claims with AHCA in a timely manner to ensure AHCA has time to submit a claim for reimbursement to the federal Medicaid agency. The SDAC claim must be filed with the federal Medicaid agency within two years from the last day of the last month in the claimed quarter. The MCSM claim must be filed within one year. Payments for FY 2023-2024 must begin no later than September 15, 2025.