



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Subject: Public Notice for Expanded School-Based Services

Add'l info: The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) is amending the State Plan to expand coverage for school-based psychological services when provided to students who do not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Additionally, the Department is allowing certified school psychologists to enroll with Maryland Medicaid and Local Education Agencies (LEA) to bill for services rendered by certified school psychologists in a school-based setting.

School-based psychological services include psychiatric diagnostic interviews, individual psychotherapy, family psychotherapy, and group psychotherapy. Currently, the Department only reimburses LEAs for these services when they are delivered in accordance with an IEP or IFSP. Under this State Plan Amendment, LEAs will be reimbursed for psychological services rendered to all students, with or without an IEP or IFSP. These services will be rendered by school social workers or school psychologists licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The proposed effective date is January 1, 2025. Psychiatric diagnostic interviews will be reimbursed at a rate of \$191.89 per interview when rendered by a school psychologist and \$168.02 per interview when rendered by a school social worker. Individual psychotherapy (20-30 minutes) will be reimbursed at a rate of \$63.53 when rendered by a school psychologist, and \$55.43 when rendered by a school social worker, Individual psychotherapy (45-50 minutes) will be reimbursed at a rate of \$115.12 when rendered by a school psychologist, and \$101.07 when rendered by a school social worker, family psychotherapy (45-60 minutes) will be reimbursed at a rate of \$121.10 when rendered by a school psychologist, and \$104.04 when rendered by a school social worker, Group psychotherapy (45-60 minutes) will be reimbursed at a rate of \$39.25 when rendered by a school psychologist, and \$39.25 when rendered by a school social worker.

The Department anticipates a fiscal impact of \$25.7 million total funds per year, with 46.7% (\$12 million) coming from federal funds and 53.3% (\$13.7 million) coming from state funds.

For questions about the notice please contact Linda Rittelmann by email at linda.rittelmann@maryland.gov.

Released 11.14.2024