

Sample Letter to Parents (not necessary but something to consider)

NOTICE

Medicaid Funding Available for Medically Related Services in Student's IEPs

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

This notice is to inform you of a source of funding for schools to pay for medically related services included in student's Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). If your child is Medicaid eligible and receiving medically related services written in an IEP, your school may be able to access Federal Medicaid funds to help pay for these services.

Federal and state laws require schools to provide a free appropriate public education to all students with disabilities. Students with educational disabilities as defined under state law, have Individualized Education Programs, which often specify medically related services that are necessary supports for participation in school to occur. Historically, schools have depended largely on property taxes to fund these required services.

Changes in Federal law enabled the Federal Medical Assistance Program, Medicaid, to be used to pay for certain medically related services such as occupational, physical, and speech therapies, psychological services, evaluations, medical exams, etc. in a child's IEP. In 1990, the State of NH implemented policy to allow school to take advantage of this new funding source. School are not required to provide additional services beyond what is already their responsibility under state law, but now, additional funding is available to help pay for services.

If your child has an IEP and is Medicaid eligible, the school may ask for your child's Medicaid number, so that the district can bill Medicaid for medically related services in the IEP. Please note that your regular Medicaid coverage is not affected in any way by the school billing on behalf of your child. Service limits and prior approval requirements under your child's regular Medicaid coverage, do not apply under the school program.

Again, schools are required to provide special education services to your child as included in the IEP, regardless of the district's ability to bill Medicaid. However, this is an important funding source, which can help schools with the cost of providing services to your child. If you are asked by your child's school to provide information regarding coverage under Medicaid, or if as part of the IEP, you are asked about possible Medicaid coverage, you are not required to give such information. However, your cooperation is encouraged, as it will assist schools in obtaining this new source of funding.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent

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Special Education Director