

FAQ School-Based Apple Health (Medicaid) Modernization Update For Families and Caregivers

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) are modernizing school-based Apple Health (Medicaid) services, with implementation beginning in summer 2027.

This modernization will:

- Simplify Medicaid claiming
- Reduce administrative burden for schools and staff
- Expand eligible services and provider types
- Use Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) for all staff instead of individual service billing

These updates align with guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), including [*Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming*](#).

School Apple Health modernization is designed to:

- Bring more federal funding into Washington schools
- Reduce administrative burden on staff
- Expand access to student health and behavioral health services
- Strengthen the connection between student well-being and academic success

OSPI and HCA are working in close partnership to provide **ongoing support, training, and clear guidance** to districts and partners, ensuring a smooth and successful transition.

Questions?

- **Visit:** [HCA's School-based services webpage](#)
- **Visit:** [OSPI's Washington Apple Health: School-based services webpage](#)



What is School Medicaid (Apple Health)?

School Apple Health allows schools to receive federal funding for the health services students already receive at school, such as nursing, therapy, and mental health support.

Will getting services at school affect my child's Apple Health or care outside of school?

No. Services provided at school do **not** reduce or limit any services your child receives outside of school. School-based Apple Health brings **additional federal funding into schools** and does not change your child's health coverage or benefits.

Will my child lose services because of these changes?

No. Services are not being reduced. This update improves how schools receive Medicaid funding so they can **maintain and expand support for students**.

How does this support my child's education?

When students receive health and behavioral health supports:

- They attend school more consistently
- They stay engaged in class
- Their behavior improves
- Their learning improves

Healthy students are better able to learn.

Does this affect my family's Apple Health coverage?

No. Children's coverage remains stable. Current federal discussions, including HR1, focus on **adult eligibility requirements**, not children. Youth under age 19 are not impacted by new work requirements.

Why is this important for schools?

This funding helps schools:

- Keep nurses, counselors, and therapists
- Protect classroom funding
- Maintain services during budget challenges
- Expand access to care for students

Will I need to do anything?

You may still be asked to provide consent for Apple Health billing. Schools will communicate clearly with you if anything is needed.

Who can I contact with questions?

Contact your school or district. Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also provides family-friendly resources.