



ED Update:

Special Education & Mental Health

September 27, 2024

Raise the Bar: Lead the World

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Accelerate learning for every student
- Deliver a comprehensive and rigorous education for every student

BOLDLY IMPROVE LEARNING CONDITIONS

- Eliminate the educator shortage for every school
- Invest in every student's mental health and well being

CREATE PATHWAYS FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Ensure every student has a pathway to college and a career
- Provide every student with a pathway to multilingualism



OSERS Mission and Priorities

TO IMPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD, EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES AND RAISE EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THE NATION

LEADING FOR EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

PREPARED WORKFORCE

Remedy immediate staffing shortages and effectively deploy diverse and equipped educators, providers, and support personnel

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Amplify, promote, and actively drive effective learning experiences, instruction, intervention, services, and support

ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Accelerate usage of inclusive materials and technology for in-person and remote learning and employment

STAKEHOLDERS

Engage families, individuals with disabilities, educators, providers, policy makers, advocates, and communities to identify successes, barriers, and needs

STRATEGIC RESOURCES

Invest in data-aligned coordinated activities that advance Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)



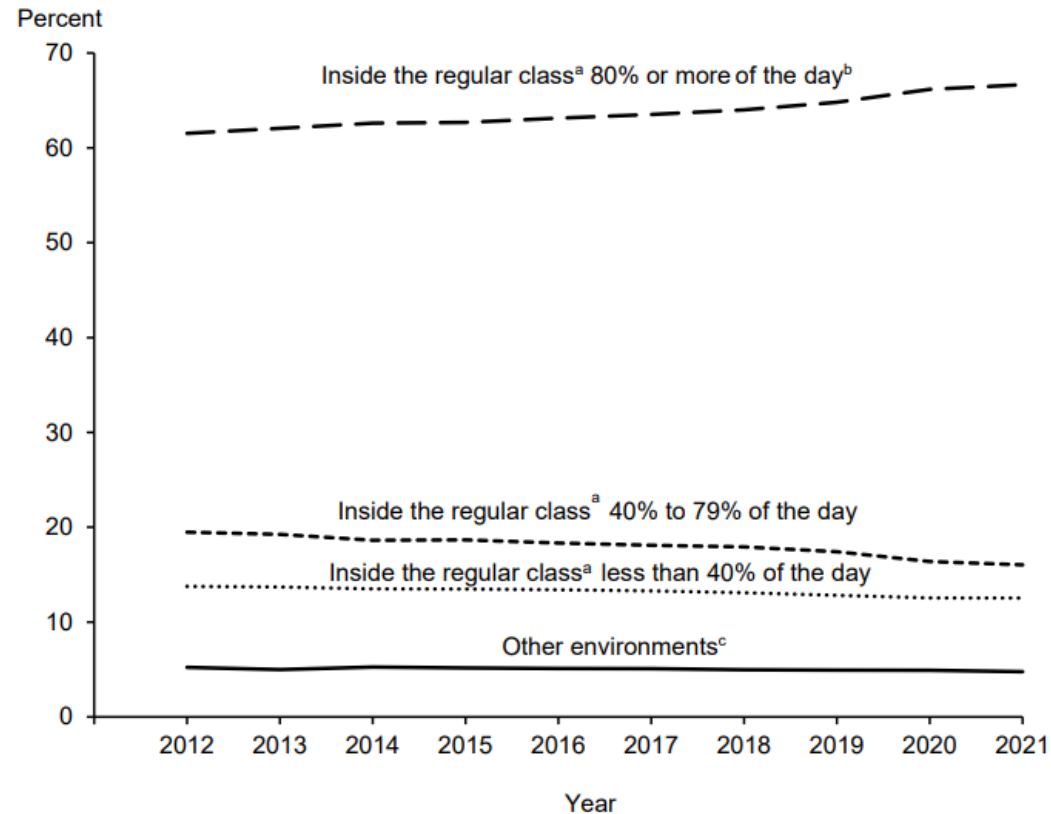
Leading for Equitable Outcomes

- **Personnel Development / Preparation Grants** (recruitment and preparation of diverse candidates)
 - Almost \$18M in FY2
- **Technical Assistance**
 - General Supervision
 - Discipline & Behavior
 - *Policy Statement on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs* (HHS and ED)
 - *Myths and Facts on Assistive Technology* (OSERS and OET), released NETP
- **Funded 20 DIF model demonstration projects** (Pathways to Partnerships) that create systemic approaches to transition services for children and youth with disabilities leading to competitive integrated employment (CIE)



Educational Environment Trends

Exhibit 30. Percentage of students ages 5 (school age) through 21 served under IDEA, Part B, by year and educational environment: Fall 2012 through fall 2021



Course Taking by Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities Served Under IDEA Accounted for

2%

of students enrolled in
Advanced Placement Courses¹

3%

of students enrolled in
Gifted and Talented Programs²

4%

of students enrolled in
Dual Enrollment or Dual Credit Programs³

[Source: CRDC Profile of Students with Disabilities in U.S. Public Schools During the 2020-21 School Year \(ed.gov\)](#)



Building a System of Persistent Equities

System

- Diverse and prepared personnel
- Access to services, including mental health
- High expectations supported by evidence-based instruction and intervention
- Timely and responsive evaluation/eligibility decisions and IFSPs and IEPs
- Family engagement used to celebrate success and be responsive to needs of children and families
- Inclusive placements, with supports that proactively address positive behavior, communication, and learning

Impact to Children

- ▶ Access to rigorous curriculum, instruction, and interventions
 - ▶ Increased graduation rates
 - ▶ Increased post-school outcomes



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Children's Mental Health

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

“[m]ental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.”



Value of School-Based Services

- Children are 6 times more likely to access mental health services when provided in a school-based setting.
- Schools can provide a continuum of care: health screenings, preventive care, behavioral health services, therapies, and more.
- Access to these services can reduce health disparities and improve school outcomes.
 - Early identification and treatment
 - Reduced absenteeism
 - Increased academic success



Department of Education Priorities

Raise the Bar: Boldly Improving Learning Conditions

- Increase the capacity of mental health professionals currently in school
- Increase the supply of mental health professionals who can work with students
- Increase funding through the Medicaid program to support school health services, including mental health services

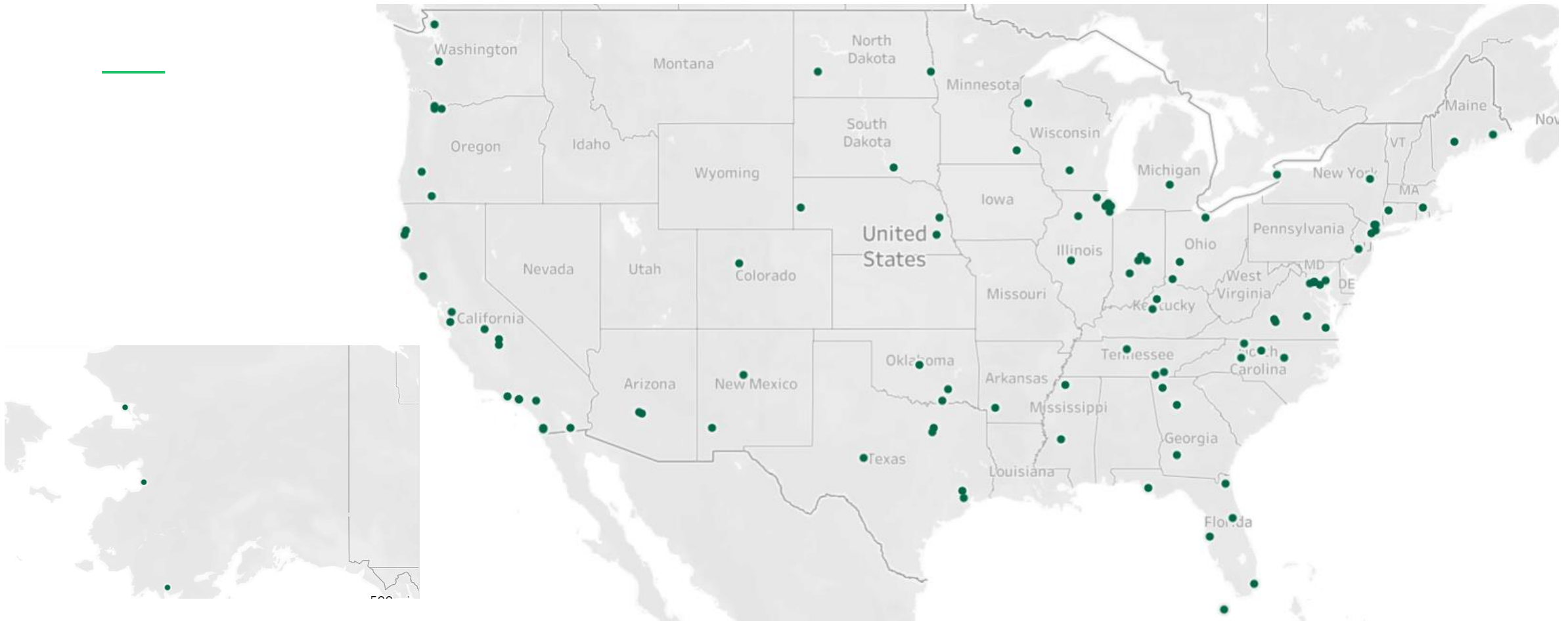


Impact to Date

- \$1B from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
- ED has awarded \$571 million in grants over the last 3 years
- 264 projects across 48 states and territories
- Project to add 14,000 additional mental health professionals in schools
 - **School Based Mental Health Services Grant program**
 - **Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grant program**



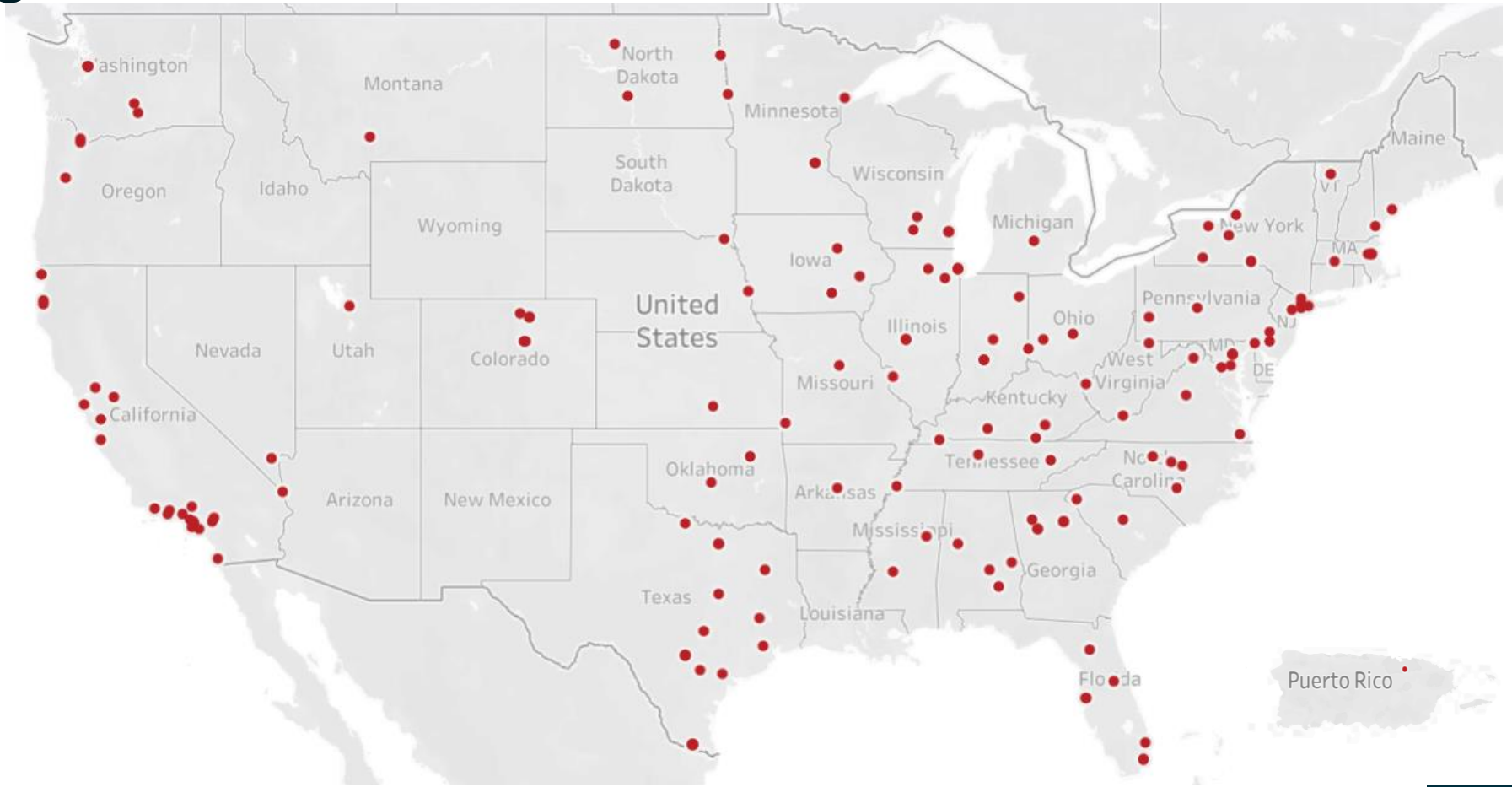
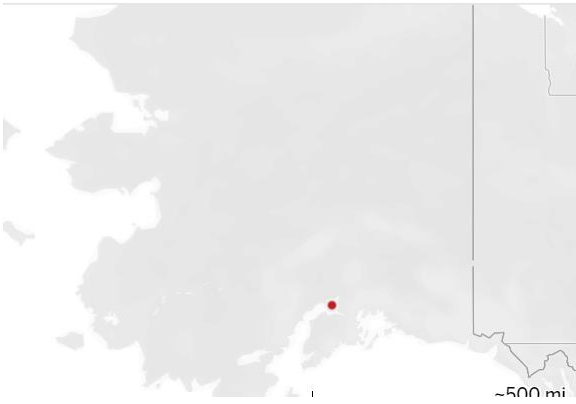
School-Based Mental Health Services Grants



U.S. Department of Education

[METRICS \(metricscenter.org\)](https://metricscenter.org)

Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program



U.S. Department of Education

[METRICS - Interactive Project Map \(metricscenter.org\)](https://metricscenter.org)



METRICS Technical Assistance Center: Building Stronger Training Programs

- The purpose of the Mental Health Personnel Technical Assistance Center (METRICS) is to help identify and develop resources for SBMH and MHSP grantees to support them in addressing the social, emotional, and mental health needs of PK-12 students and staff.
- The Center will also provide support to the field more broadly – to grantees and beyond – by disseminating best practices in recruiting, training, placing, and retaining school-based mental health services providers.
- The \$2.6M grant per year was awarded in early September 2023 to the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, in collaboration with the University of South Florida, UC Santa Barbara and University of Iowa.
- The grant was funded with BSCA program administration funds.





Resources for the Field



Information briefs

Recruitment, Retention, Supervision,
Project management, Credentialing



Grantee spotlights

Webinars and social media



Guidance documents

Data collection and analysis of
performance measures



Podcast

Staff and grantees



IHE Toolkits

Recruitment, retention, and
practicum management



Videos

Mental health impacts and solutions





Medicaid and School-Based Services

Accessing Medicaid Funds for SBS

- Most states use Medicaid funds for services provided to Medicaid-enrolled children with IEPs
- Since 2014, States can also use Medicaid funds for services to any Medicaid-enrolled child
 - IEPs & Section 504 plans
 - Any covered services in the state (EPSDT, medically necessary)
- **Only 16 states have an approved SPA allowing for Medicaid reimbursement beyond IEP services**



Current U.S. Landscape of Medicaid SBS Services

As of September 2024:

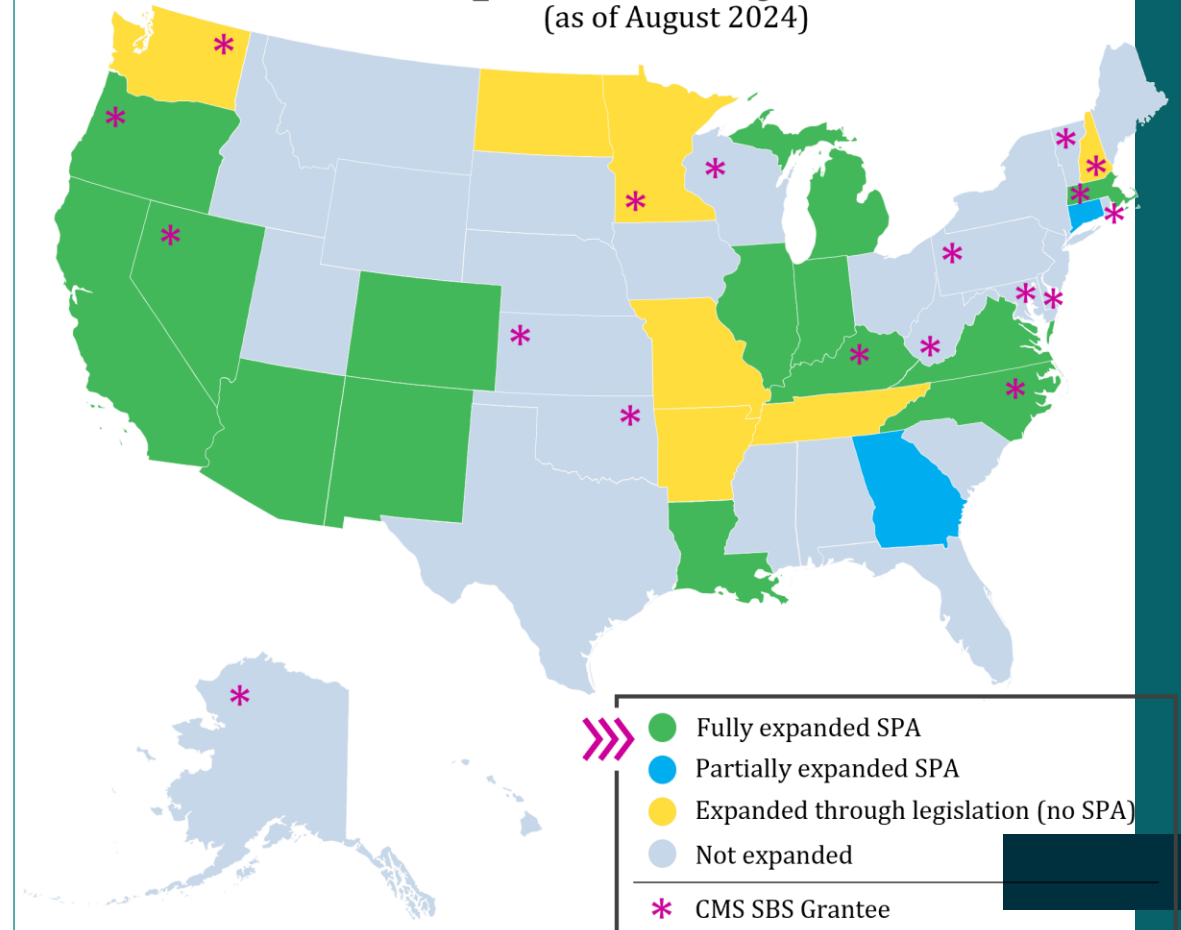
- 13 States have fully increased access beyond IDEA to cover all medically necessary services.
- 3 States partially expanded to cover at least non-IEP service (e.g., nursing services, 504 plans)
- Medicaid SBS expansion has allowed these States to:
 - Bring in additional resources to expand access to health services for vulnerable students.
 - Address the increased demand for mental health services in schools.



U.S. Department of Education

Medicaid School-Based Services Expansion by State

(as of August 2024)



Why Expand Access to Medicaid Funds?

- Nationally, over half of all school-aged children and youth are covered by Medicaid.
- In FY 22, Medicaid paid more than \$6 billion to school districts for providing school-based services each year and is a large source of funding for many LEAs. For example:
 - Chicago Public Schools receives **\$35-40 million** annually in Medicaid reimbursement.
 - The district expects **\$10 million more** as a result of the federal flexibilities offered in the 2023 CMS claiming guide.
- Illinois received **over \$200 million** in the most recent year



ED + HHS partnership

June 2022

Congress passes Bipartisan Safer Communities Act:

- \$1B in SBMH/MHSP
- Update claiming guide
 - Medicaid SBS TAC
- \$50M for SBS grants

May 2023

Published *Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming Guide* (“The Guide”)

June 2024

\$50M in grants to 18 states to support SBS implementation, enhancement, and expansion



July 2022

2nd Joint letter from ED Sec. Cardona and HHS Sec. Becerra

June 2023

Launch of SBS Technical Assistance Center (jointly supported by ED/CMS)

Q4 2024

ED to award \$70M in SBMH/MHSP

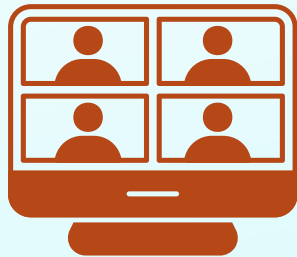



Purpose of the TAC



- CMS and ED share a commitment to children and youth and work together with the TAC to ensure children have the health services and supports necessary to build resilience and thrive.
- The TAC seeks to assist and expand the capacity of SMAs, SEAs, LEAs, and school-based entities to provide greater assistance to Medicaid eligible children and youth in K–12 schools.

TA activities provided by the TAC include:



 Convening large and small group stakeholder calls.



Developing specific resource materials.



Responding to questions via the CMS Medicaid SBS Mailbox.

Helping States Increase Access to SBS



CMS, ED, and TAC

Serving as a TA resource to support SMAs, SEAs, and LEAs **throughout the process** of increasing access to Medicaid SBS.



Interest in **expanding SBS** or **recouping more money** for services already provided.



New or updated **Federal and State program documentation** to guide SBS:

- State plan amendment (SPA).
- Cost report instructions.
- Payment methodologies.
- Time study methodologies.
- State-specific administration and direct service guidance.

Comprehensive Review and Analysis

Players and Stakeholders

- School staff and providers
- Parents and students
- SMAs, SEAs, and LEAs

Information Dissemination

Building Coalition



Increased access to Medicaid in schools.



U.S. Department of Education

Technical Assistance by the Numbers



5

In-depth peer-to-peer technical meetings including on Random Moment Time Study, Program Integrity, School Mental Health



8

Webinars presented to State Medicaid Agencies, State Educational Agencies, and Local Educational Agencies



50

States have engaged in TA



100+

Attendees per webinar

400+

Questions addressed



Medicaid SBS Grant Types and Awardees

18 States were awarded grants.

Implementation Grantees

- ▶ Alaska
- ▶ Kansas
- ▶ Maryland
- ▶ Oregon
- ▶ Rhode Island
- ▶ Vermont
- ▶ Washington
- ▶ West Virginia
- ▶ Wisconsin

Expansion Grantees

- ▶ Delaware
- ▶ Nevada
- ▶ New Hampshire
- ▶ North Carolina
- ▶ Oklahoma
- ▶ Pennsylvania

Enhancement Grantees

- ▶ Kentucky
- ▶ Massachusetts
- ▶ Minnesota



Forthcoming State Cohort Meetings – Purpose

States that have similarly aligned expansion status regarding their efforts to increase healthcare to Medicaid children in schools have been grouped into three specific types of cohorts to learn how to advance efforts, receive assistance from the Medicaid SBS TAC, and identify reasonable goals/targets.

Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only cover IEP services.• Are not grantees.• Are not currently working on a SPA to expand SBS.• May have communicated with the TAC for other topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the process of expanding SBS.• Includes most grantees who received Implementation or Expansion grants.• Let the TAC know they are interested in expansion or have passed State legislation to expand SBS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have an approved SPA to expand SBS beyond IEP/IFSP services. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have partially expanded to include services in 504 plans or other types of services.





Questions?

Email: SchoolBasedServices@cms.hhs.gov





Questions