




Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Office of Medicaid  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)



**MassHealth  
School-Based Medicaid Provider  
Bulletin 25  
August 2013**

**TO:** School-Based Medicaid Providers Participating in MassHealth  
**FROM:** Kristin L. Thorn, Acting Medicaid Director   
**RE:** Parental Authorization to Share Information with MassHealth

---

**Background**

This bulletin is to notify you of the new Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulations about parental consent. These regulations took effect on March 18, 2013. The IDEA requires local education authorities (LEAs) to ensure that parents are fully informed of their rights and provide consent before the LEA submits a claim to an insurer or public benefit agency.

---

**What the New Regulations Mean**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is the state agency responsible for overseeing the IDEA in Massachusetts. DESE has provided additional information about these new regulations and the new required parental consent form in Administrative Advisory SPED 2013-1 *Parental Consent to Access MassHealth (Medicaid)* which can be found at [http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/13\\_1.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/13_1.html).

For more detailed information about the regulation at 34 CFR 300.154(d), go to <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/req/idea/part-b/part-b-parental-consent.html>.

It's important that all LEAs ensure that parents understand that providing their consent to allow a school to submit claims to MassHealth does not alter or reduce the benefits that children are entitled to receive from MassHealth.

DESE has informed us that the IDEA requires LEAs to obtain such parental consent before

- submitting claims to MassHealth;
  - including children in the Medicaid eligibility statistics; or
  - calculating the annual cost report.
- 

*(continued on next page)*

***What the New  
Regulations Mean***  
(cont.)

DESE has advised us that once a consent form compliant with the new regulation is obtained, LEAs are not required to obtain consent again in order to submit a claim to MassHealth, even if there is a change in the type or amount of services to be provided to the student or a change in the cost of the services to be charged to MassHealth.

---

***Questions***

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the UMass Medical School (UMMS) at 1-508-856-7640, or e-mail your inquiry to [schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu](mailto:schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu).

---