



School-Based Medicaid Program Bulletin 33

DATE: September 2026

TO: School-Based Medicaid Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Ryan Schwarz, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: Updates to Qualified Practitioners List and to Diagnostic Requirements for Applied Behavioral Analysis

Background

MassHealth is dedicated to improving the health outcomes of our diverse members, their families, and their communities by providing access to integrated health care systems that sustainably promote health, well-being, independence, and quality of life.

The School-Based Medicaid Program (SBMP) offers local education agencies (LEAs) an important opportunity to be reimbursed when they provide MassHealth-covered services to MassHealth members. LEAs are public schools operated by cities, towns, charter schools, regional schools, or vocational/technical schools. This bulletin provides an update to the list of qualified practitioners under the SBMP and an update related to diagnostic requirements for applied behavioral analysis (ABA).

Covered Services and Qualified Practitioners

The [SBMP Covered Services and Qualified Practitioners](#) document has been updated and is available on the SBMP website. The document should be reviewed in its entirety; however, the notable updates are as follows.

- Addition of speech-language pathologist (SLP) provisional licensee (effective October 1, 2025)
- Addition of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education personnel credentialed under applicable state law:
 - school social worker/school adjustment counselor (SSW/SAC) (effective January 1, 2027)
 - school counselor (effective January 1, 2027)

Corresponding updates for provisional SLPs are already reflected in the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) to allow LEAs to include these qualified practitioners in the LEA's participant list. The RMTS will be updated to include DESE-licensed

SSW/SAC and school counselors. LEAs should review the [MassHealth School-Based Medicaid Program Direct-Service Claiming \(DSC\) Guide](#) and the [LEA RMTS Coordinator Guide for Random Moment Time Study \(RMTS\)](#) to ensure readiness before including any new staff in their RMTS participant lists, including LEA responsibilities for staff training and compliance with program requirements for claiming.

LEAs are encouraged to review the [LEA Toolkit for Success](#). Whether determining readiness to include these new providers or taking stock of the LEA's compliance with program requirements, this resource can assist LEAs in building strong oversight including key operations and tasks for each major component of the SBMP.

Diagnostic Requirements for ABA

Effective January 1, 2026, students with a single diagnosis of Down syndrome are eligible to receive ABA. This update has also been made to the [MassHealth School-Based Medicaid Program Direct-Service Claiming \(DSC\) Guide](#), which you should also review to ensure compliance with program requirements.

SBMP Website

You can find more information about the SBMP on the [School-Based Medicaid Program website](#). This bulletin is available on the [SBMP Program Bulletins web page](#).

[Sign up to receive email alerts](#) when MassHealth updates the SBMP website or issues updated information for participating LEAs.

Questions?

If LEA staff have questions about this bulletin, please contact the School-Based Medicaid Claiming Program at (800) 535-6741 or by email at schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu.



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