

Transforming School Health Services and Access

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and
Medicine

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CAMPAIGN

About Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC)

- HSC works at the intersection of education, health and equity
- HSC advocates for national and local policies and practices that support health and learning
- HSC's priority issues include comprehensive mental and physical health services, green schoolyards and clean air at school

Getting Kids Outside!

HSC's Space to Grow Program

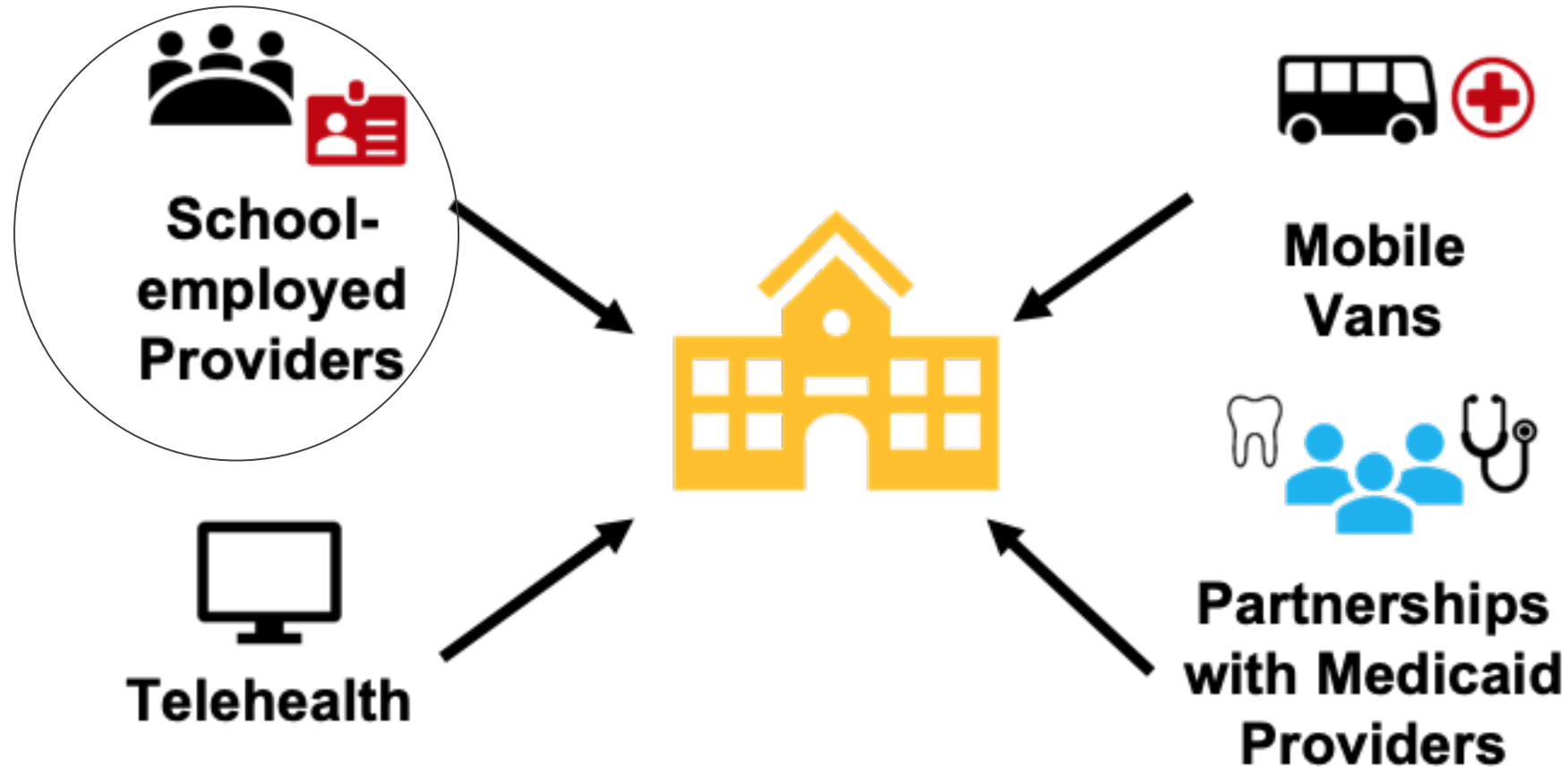
- Transforms Chicago schoolyards into vibrant spaces to play, learn and be outside
- Supports students, teachers, schools and communities in outdoor learning and access, physical activity and wellness



Comprehensive Physical and Mental Health Services for All Students

- Increase sustainable funding for school-based health services
- Cover more services in schools
- Expand healthcare workforce
- Encourage new thinking on how education and health sectors can work together to improve outcomes in schools

Models for Delivering Health Services in Schools



What is Medicaid?

Comprehensive health insurance program

- Medicaid covers 1 in 5 people in the United States
- Almost half of all U.S. children are covered by Medicaid or CHIP
- Covers all medically necessary physical and behavioral health services for children

A shared partnership between state and federal government

- States make decisions about administration, eligibility, services and beneficiary protections, with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approval
- Changes made through a state plan amendment (SPA)

Medicaid Services in Schools

- Historically, Medicaid paid for health services included in the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) of students enrolled in Medicaid
- A 2014 CMS federal policy clarification* expands coverage to ALL students enrolled in Medicaid

**This is sometimes called the “free care” policy reversal*



Coverage of School Health Services:

Medicaid can pay for school-based physical, mental and behavioral health services if:

- The student is enrolled in Medicaid
- Services provided are covered by the state
- Services are delivered by a qualified provider
- States have appropriate billing, documentation and oversight mechanisms in place
- CMS must approve a state plan amendment (SPA)

Examples

Eligible School Health Services

- **Physician Services**
- **Nursing Services**
- Psychology
- Counseling
- Social Work Services
- **Vision Services**
- Audiology Services
- Speech Therapy
- **Occupational Therapy**
- Physical Therapy

Eligible School Health Providers

- **Nurse practitioner**
- **Registered nurse**
- **Licensed practical nurse**
- **Health technician**
- Certified school psychologist
- Credentialed school counselor
- Credentialed school social worker
- Licensed marriage and family therapist
- Speech language pathologist
- **Occupational therapist**

Federal Opportunities and State Impact

Federal Momentum:

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act included key Medicaid provisions

State Impact:

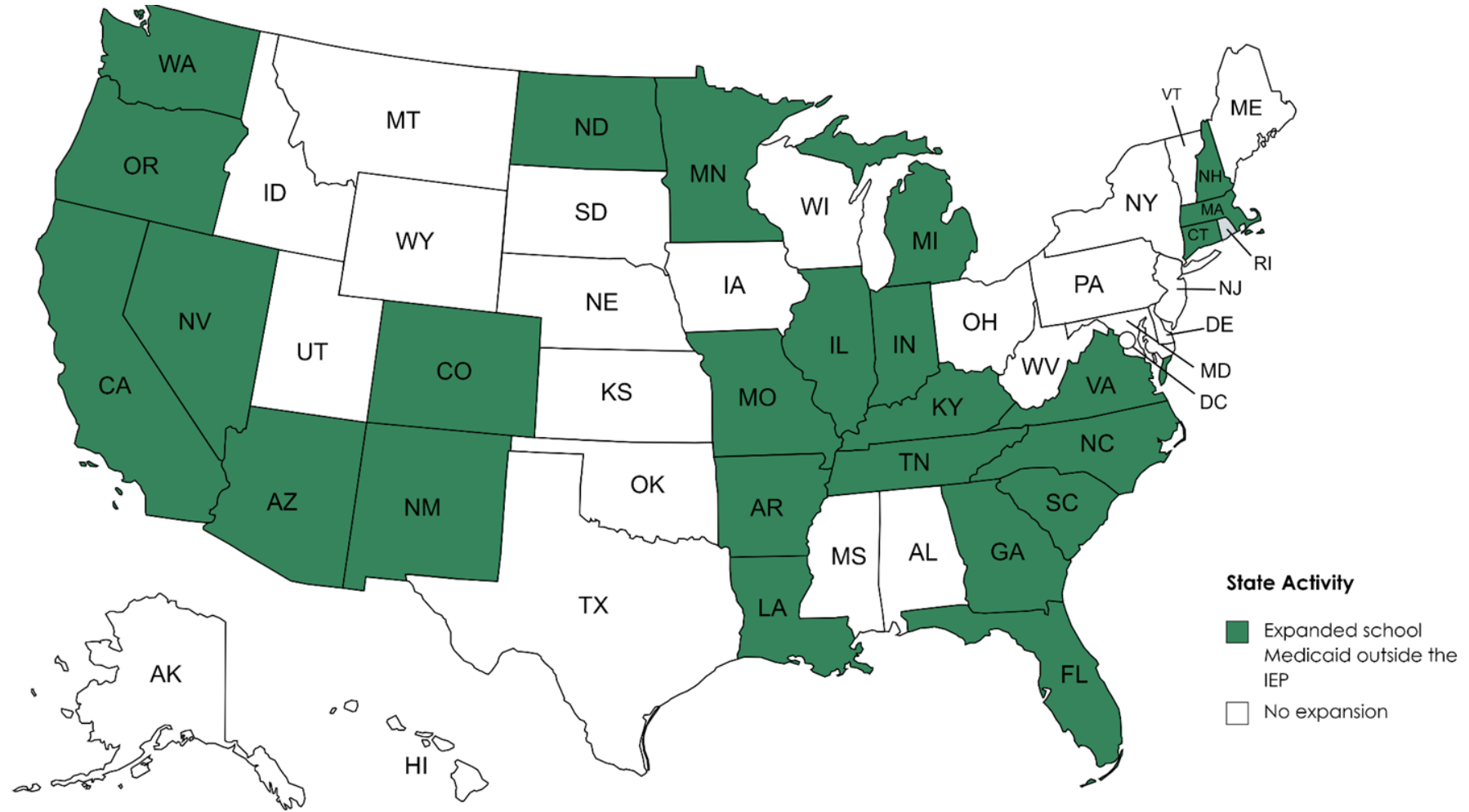
- Michigan has drawn down an estimated **\$20 million** in new federal funding for its school-based Medicaid program
- Colorado estimated an increase of approximately **\$12 million**, a 30% increase over the current program

Status of School Medicaid: How (and How Many) States Have Taken Action

- 25 states have expanded or partially expanded
- Not all expansions look the same
- Every state has an opportunity to expand services, coverage and reimbursement



Expansion of School-Based Medicaid Programs



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Moving School Health Forward

- **Maximize Medicaid in school and ensure the majority of reimbursement funds are dedicated to school health services**
- **Expand state opportunities for school Medicaid coordination and technical support**
- **Expand green schoolyards to encourage more outdoor learning and activities for students and communities**
- **Encourage new partnerships between health and education to promote outdoor learning**



School Medicaid Expansion

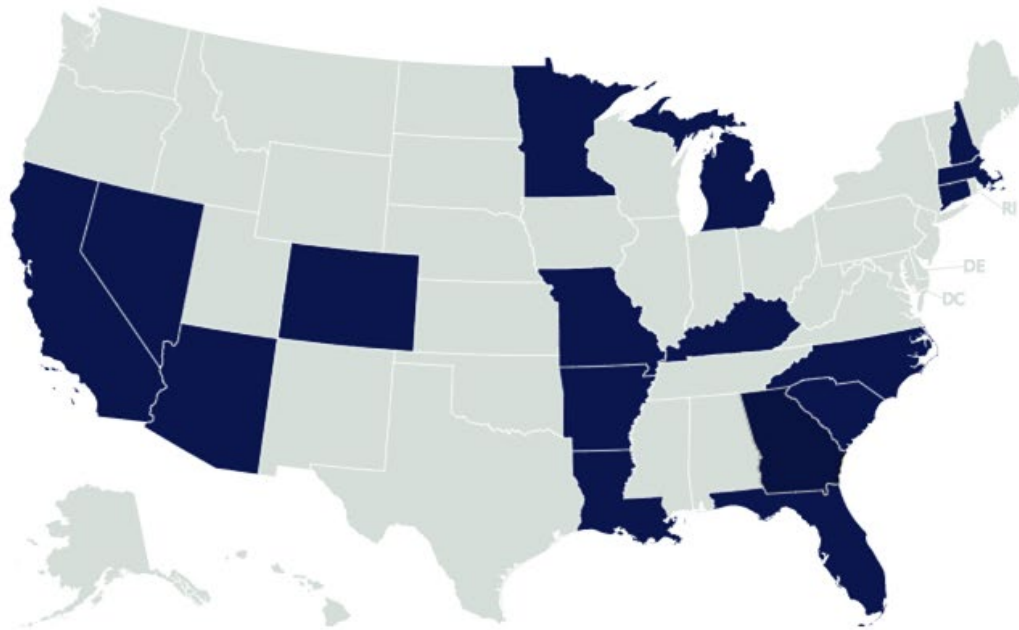
School Health Providers

Promising Practices

States That Expanded
Medicaid Coverage In Schools

States In the Process Of
Expanding Medicaid Coverage
In Schools

States Not Yet Taking Action



Georgia

Georgia expanded its school Medicaid program in June 2021 to include school nursing services delivered to all Medicaid-enrolled students. View: [State Plan Amendment](#)

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Resources

- **NEW!** [Status of School Medicaid Expansion](#)
- **NEW!** [School Medicaid Guidance: What Advocates and State Policymakers Need to Know](#)
- [A Guide to Expanding Medicaid-Funded School Health Services](#)
- **And more:**
healthystudentspromisingfutures.org/resources

Contact

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Thank you

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