



Office of Deputy Mayor Jennifer C. Niles
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 307 | Washington, DC 20004

To: LEA Leaders
From: Jennie Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education 
Date: 8.23.2016
Re: Expanding Reimbursement for School-Based Health Services

Your help is needed to complete this short <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DXHRFFM>, which could ultimately lead to a significant expansion of health services, including mental health, to all District public school and public charter school students.

In December 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [guidance](#) on expanding reimbursement of school-based services outlined within Medicaid state plans, also referred to as the Free Care Rule. The expansion extends to all eligible students enrolled in Medicaid, regardless as to whether the services are provided based on requirements of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and/or allows for the reimbursement of specific school nursing and health services. Clarification of the Free Care Rule from CMS allows the District to shift funding of many services provided in schools from local funding to a federal/state match through Medicaid.

With support and from the Deputy Mayor for Education and the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, the DC Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) and other stakeholders are exploring Medicaid policies for expanding reimbursement of health services delivered in schools, including those delivered in DC Public Schools and DC Public Charter Schools.

This shift in guidance could lead to a significant expansion of services, including mental health services, to all our students. To understand the full potential impact of these policy considerations and how they could help schools offer more services that are Medicaid eligible, DHCF is requesting that each LEA complete this short [survey](#) by September 9, 2016.

If you have questions please contact Audrey Williams at awilliams@dcpceb.org, Monica Lesperance at mlesperance@specialcoop.org, and Yair Inspektor at yair.inspektor@dc.gov.

