SCHOOLS BILLING MEDICAID
Questions and Answers for Families

Why do schools bill Medicaid?
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) allows some health and medical services to be covered by Medicaid. When it is possible, school districts bill Medicaid and receive partial reimbursement for health services provided.

What can schools bill Medicaid for?
School districts can only bill for medically related services that are specified in the student’s IEP. In general, services for which a school district may bill Medicaid are: audiology services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, behavioral health services, nursing services and specialized transportation.

Will my child’s Medicaid benefits outside of the school be affected if the school district bills Medicaid?
No, there is no maximum on benefits for a child with a disability. Allowing the school district to bill for these services will not impact your Medicaid limits for any other services billed by a private provider. Medicaid services received outside of school and your child’s IEP are authorized separately.

What do school districts do with the money they receive from Medicaid?
Money that school districts receive helps to compensate for the rising cost of health services and can be spent on hiring additional staff, health related equipment, and supplies.

Does the school district need my consent to bill Medicaid?
Yes, school districts are required by IDEA to obtain parental consent to disclose your child’s information and bill Medicaid for services.

If I refuse, will my child receive his/her health related service?
Yes. School districts are required to provide all IEP services even if they cannot bill Medicaid, but remember, your consent provides the school with additional monies to enhance services provided to students with disabilities.