

UPDATE on Medicaid to Schools legislation:

As you may have heard, the Governor signed SB 684 into law yesterday. A big thanks to all of you that put time and effort into reviewing the bill, proposing amendments, and attending hearings related to the bill.

The legislation accomplishes three important goals. First, SB 684 facilitates the provision of medical services in the school setting to students that are enrolled in participating public schools and in Medicaid by adding public schools to the list of settings where a licensed nurse may delegate the task of administering medicine.

Second, the legislation provides an efficient pathway for the Office of Professional Licensure (OPLC) to license qualified professionals that are certified by the Department of Education (DOE) and are providing health related services to New Hampshire students. Once licensed, schools may be able to seek federal funding for services provided by these licensed professionals. **(More on licensing below).**

Third, SB 684 adds clarity to the two Medicaid to Schools statutes by addressing medical necessity and aligning the language between the two statutes.

As to licensing, there are provisions related to school psychologists, school social workers, and speech language specialists that are currently certified by and in good standing with the DOE, and were certified on the effective date of the legislation.

**School Psychologists** – school psychologists who are currently certified by the department of education and in good standing are automatically licensed by this legislation:

(a) Each certified school psychologist in good standing who holds a doctoral degree in psychology shall be licensed as licensed school psychologist-doctoral.

(b) Each certified school psychologist in good standing who does not hold a doctoral degree in psychology shall be licensed as licensed school psychologist-specialist.

**School Social Workers** that are currently certified by the department of education and in good standing may obtain licensure by notifying the office of licensure and certification (OPLC) in writing of his or her intent to be licensed. We have been informed by the OPLC that emailed notice to the OPLC will suffice.

The legislation specifies that the OPLC shall grant the license within 10 days of receipt of notification. RSA 330-A:18-a, I.

Certain **Speech Language Specialists** may be eligible for expedited licensure if he or she is currently certified and in good standing as a speech-language specialist by the department of education, bureau of credentialing if he or she possesses a master's degree or higher academic degree in speech-language pathology, communications sciences and disorders, or communications disorders. Any speech-language pathologist who chooses to seek licensure under this provision can do so by notifying the OPLC in writing of his or her intent to be licensed. Again, emailed notice is sufficient. The OPLC shall grant licenses under RSA 326-F:3-a within 10 days of receipt of notification.

We will have additional information over the coming weeks, but we wanted to bring this update to your attention as quickly as possible. Please note that the above information is not legal advice.

Thank you again for your work on the Medicaid to Schools program.

Sincerely,

The Medicaid to Schools team