

256B.15 Reimbursement for special education services.

1. The state board of education in conjunction with the department of education shall develop a program to utilize federally funded health care programs, except the federal medically needy program for individuals who have a spend-down, to share in the costs of services which are provided to children requiring special education.
2. The department of education shall designate an area education agency to develop a system for collecting the information necessary to implement procedures for billing and collecting the costs of the services. The area education agency shall begin to develop the system immediately. The area education agency shall consult with and work jointly with state agencies and federal agencies to determine procedures and standards which shall be initiated by all area education agencies to qualify for receipt of benefits under federal programs.
3. The department of education, in conjunction with the area education agency, shall determine those specific services which are covered by federally funded health care programs, which shall include, but not be limited to, physical therapy, audiology, speech language therapy, and psychological evaluations. The department shall also determine which other special services may be subject to reimbursement and the qualifications necessary for personnel providing those services. If it is determined that services are required from other service providers, these providers shall be reimbursed for those services.
4. All services referred to in subsection 1 shall be initially funded by the area education agency and shall be provided regardless of subsequent subrogation collections. The area education agency shall make a claim for reimbursement to federally funded health care programs.
5. Not later than July 1, 1988, the area education agency designated by the department of education shall have developed the program for collecting for the services provided. The program shall be distributed to all of the area education agencies in the state. All area education agencies shall begin collecting the information on July 1, 1988.
6. Effective November 1, 1988, all area education agencies in the state shall participate in the program and begin billing for and collecting for the covered services and shall bill for services provided retroactive to July 1, 1988. Retroactive Title XIX billing is contingent upon state plan approval. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to allow nonlicensed individuals to perform services which otherwise require licenses under the laws of this state or to allow licensed providers to perform services outside their scope of practice.
7. *a.* The treasurer of the state shall credit receipts received under this section to the department of human services to pay contractual fees incurred by the department to maximize federal funding for special education services. All remaining receipts in excess of the amount necessary to pay contractual fees shall be credited to the department of human services medical assistance account.
b. The area education agencies shall, after determining the administrative costs associated with the implementation of medical assistance reimbursement for the eligible services, be permitted to retain up to twenty-five percent of the federal portion of the total amount reimbursed to pay for the administrative costs. This limitation does not apply to medical assistance reimbursement for services provided by an area education agency under part C of the federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. Funds received under this section shall not be considered or included as part of the area education agencies' budgets when calculating funds that are to be received by area education agencies during a fiscal year.
8. Students or their parents or guardians covered by a federal health care program shall provide health care information to an area education agency or local school district.

9. The department of education and the department of human services shall adopt rules to implement this section.

10. The department of human services shall offer assistance to the area education agencies in the identification of children eligible for reimbursement for services under this section.

88 Acts, ch 1155, §1

C89, § 281.15

89 Acts, ch 296, § 25; 91 Acts, ch 125, §1, 2; 92 Acts, ch 1021, §1

C93, § 256B.15

94 Acts, ch 1120, §12; 2000 Acts, ch 1223, §24; 2001 Acts, ch 41, §1, 2; 2006 Acts, ch 1030, §32