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# **School-Based Telehealth Services**

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# School-Based Telehealth Services

## 18 States Have Some Form of Formalized Program

### Benefits of School-Based Programs

- **Reduced Student Absenteeism**
- **Reduced Parental Time Off for Medical Visits**
- **Increased Overall Access to Medical Care**
- **Improved Chronic Disease Management**
- **Increased Behavioral Health Services; Reduced Classroom Disruptions**
- **Reduced Emergency Department & Urgent Care Visits**



# School-Based Telehealth Services – Proposed Legislation

## Telehealth Behavioral Services in Schools

- Sets framework for public, nonpublic and area education agencies to provide services - voluntary
- Schools will:
  - provide a confidential/private room and the technology to conduct telehealth
  - maintain parental consent forms
  - maintain scheduling requests
  - utilize a school nurse or other appropriately trained employee to provide student access to room
  - ensure that no employee is present in the same room as the student during provision of services
- Firewall maintained between student health and student school records

# School-Based Telehealth Services – Proposed Legislation

## Guidelines for General Behavioral Health Screenings

*(no existing patient/provider relationship)*

- School may contract with mental health professional or behavioral healthcare organization to provide screenings
  - Screenings may be conducted in person or via telehealth
  
- Written consent of parent or guardian is required
  
- Responsibilities of mental health provider
  - Notify parent/guardian of results of screening
  - Notify student's primary care provider of results of screening
  - Duty to warn if credible threat to health & safety of student and/or others

# School-Based Telehealth Services – Proposed Legislation

## Guidelines for General Behavioral Health Screenings

*(Established Patient-Provider Relationship)*

- Written consent of parent or guardian is required
  
- Responsibilities of mental health provider
  - Must be an Iowa-licensed mental health professional as defined in 228.1
  - Develop plan with student's primary care provider to coordinate care
  - Maintain all medical records and billing responsibilities
  - May not prescribe new, alter existing, or discontinue medications during telehealth visit; may do so via phone during consultation with parent after visit
  - Duty to warn in credible threat to health & safety of student and/or others

# School-Based Telehealth Services – Proposed Legislation

## Medicaid and Private Insurance Reimbursement

- Clarifies that no provider needs to be present in the room with the student for school-based telehealth services
  - School liability concerns – employee must notify if a threat is made, triggering school procedures
  - Telehealth services must comply with recognized standard of care; only services that do not require the physical presence of a provider on both ends would be provided
- Must have an established provider/patient relationship
- Must have consent of parent or guardian for telehealth services
- Medicaid and private insurance shall reimburse for behavioral health services provided in a school-based setting if service is required by student's individualized education plan (IEP)

# School-Based Telehealth Services – Proposed Legislation

## Questions?

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