

# School-Based Services

Schools and Parents Amplifying Resources for Kids (SPARK)

Stakeholder Meeting  
March 1, 2024

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# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Purpose and Goals
3. Areas of Opportunity
  - Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Grant
  - Legislative Efforts
  - New CMS flexibilities
4. Project Management Team
5. Next Steps





# Why are we here today?





# Building Systems Supporting Youth



- Many services and systems work together to support youth
- School-Based Services is one area of opportunity to support youth



# School-Based Services



Medicaid can only reimburse for school-based services if:

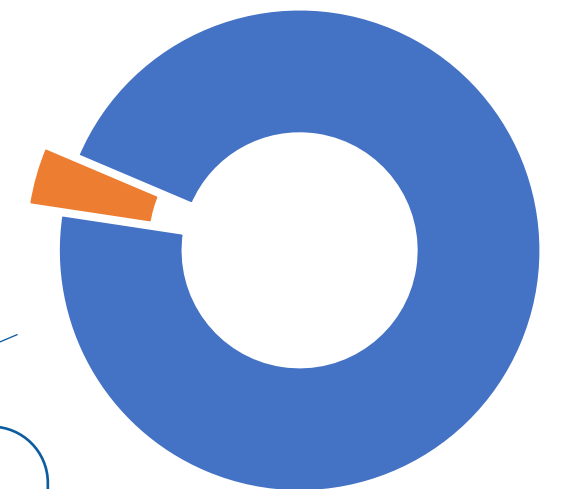
- The student has a disability
- The services are included in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Medicaid-reimbursable services include:

- Speech, Occupational, Physical Therapy
- Audiology
- Some nursing services
- Behavioral Health Services



Only **6 out of 54** districts currently submit claims for Medicaid reimbursement.



Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy make up **96%** of reimbursed services.



# SPARK Stakeholder Group



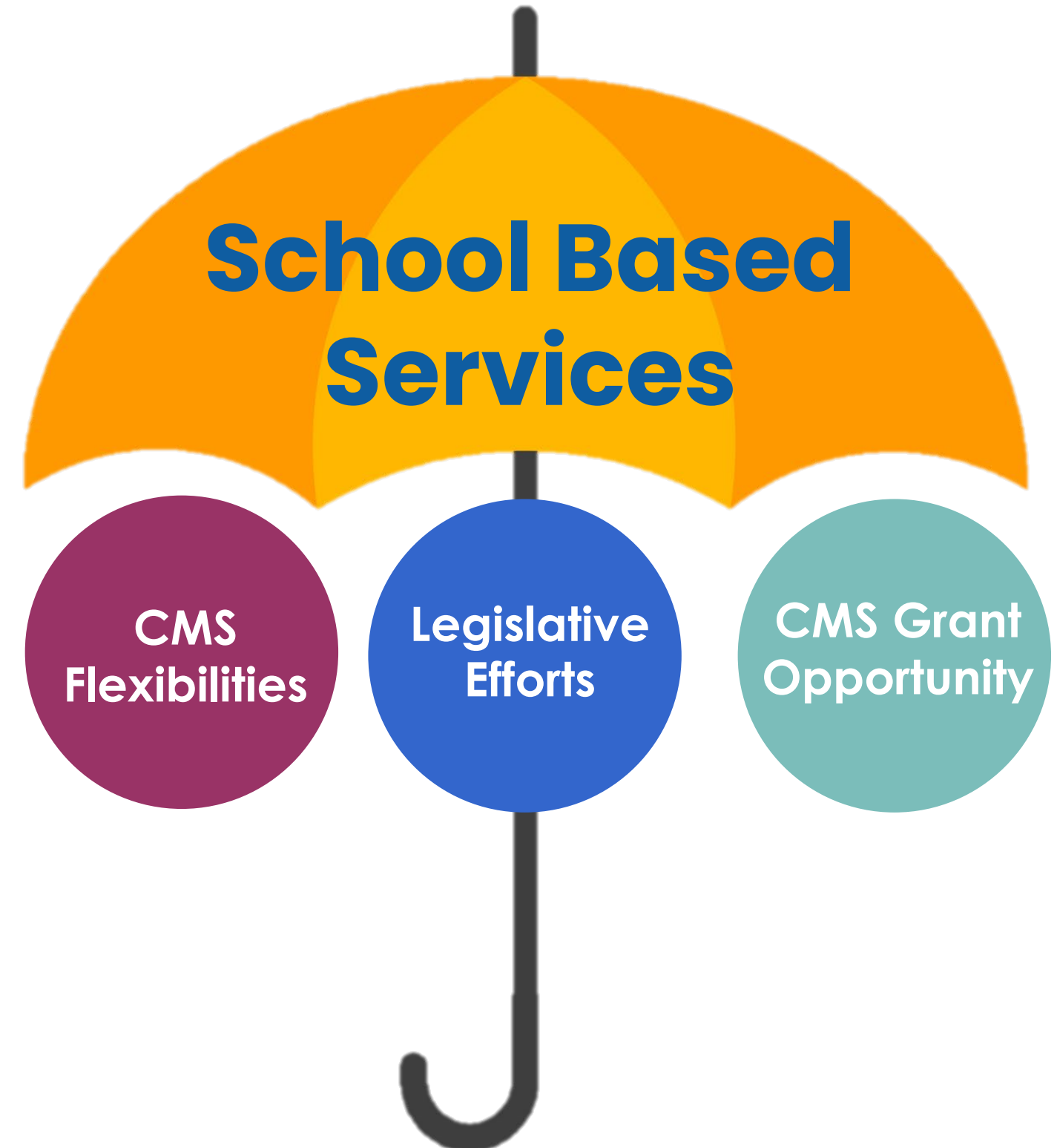
- 1) Identify the **status** of School-Based Services (SBS) in Alaska
- 2) Determine the **impact** of Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) flexibilities for SBS in Alaska
- 3) Identify **challenges** and **solutions** through focus groups
- 4) Ensure an avenue of **communication** with Departments during the process



# Areas of Opportunity



- **New flexibilities** for School-Based Services from CMS
- **Legislative efforts** to allow access to Medicaid-reimbursable services in schools
- **Grant opportunity** from CMS





# New CMS Flexibilities for SBS



## 2023 CMS Guidance updating Medicaid-covered SBS

- Any Medicaid-eligible student able to receive reimbursable SBS
- Medicaid Agencies given options to streamline billing & reimbursement methods
- Schools can make administrative claims for time spent serving Medicaid-eligible students
- [CMS FAQ](#)





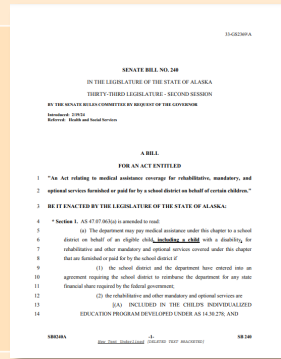
# Meeting the Child with Services



Districts that utilize Medicaid reimbursement can:

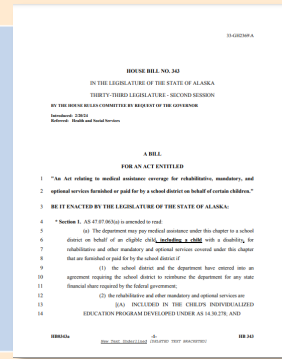
- Maximize Federal match when providing services
- Be reimbursed for services they already provide
- Participate in Random Moment Time Studies (RMTS) to begin using administrative claiming
- Utilize Plans of Care/Treatment when service is clinically appropriate, reduces the need for IEP team for non-IDEA students

# Legislative Efforts



**Senate Bill  
240**

- Introduced  
2/19/24



**House Bill  
343**

- Introduced  
2/20/24



*Stay Tuned!*

- One committee of referral
- Both received hearings this week



# Benefits to Alaskans



## Families and Children

- ✓ Provides more convenient choices for parents seeking care for their children
- ✓ Increases access to services for children
- ✓ Promotes early intervention and prevention
- ✓ Provides services where the child is every day

## System Efficiencies

- ✓ Allows schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement when a child is eligible
- ✓ Maximizes federal Medicaid match



# CMS Grant Opportunity



State Medicaid Agencies are eligible for **\$2.5M** grant to support SBS

- Focus on implementation of SBS in Alaska
- Funds can be used to:
  - Streamline Medicaid-reimbursable services in current billing school districts
  - Assist school districts that want to begin billing for Medicaid-reimbursable services

## **We need your help!**

- Provide feedback on Needs Assessment questions
- Email will be sent after this meeting
- Return responses by March 8<sup>th</sup> via email
- Opportunity for virtual feedback:
  - Tues March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am
  - Fri March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm





# SBS Project Management Team



Project Management Team includes

Department of Health

Department of Education & Early Development

Alaska Native Health Board

School Health Service Providers

Advocacy Groups

And many more!



# Future Focus Groups



## Proposed April Stakeholder Agenda:

- ✓ Updates on grant application process
- ✓ Present the focus groups
  1. Topics
  2. Timeline of effort
  3. Co/Chairs
  4. Scope of work
  5. Goals/outcomes
- ✓ More information regarding the stakeholder group process and goals





# Action Steps



## 1) **Complete** Needs Assessment questions (in follow-up email)

- Respond via email OR
- Provide verbal feedback virtually
  - Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am
  - Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm

## 2) **Attend** our next stakeholder meeting on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

## 3) **Stay connected!**

- Keep a look out for the SBS webpage
- Questions or follow-up suggestions....





## Questions?

Please contact:

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