

GAME CHANGER FOR SCHOOLS:

Health Plan Obligation to Pay For **School-Linked Behavioral Health** Services

Effective January 2024

- Schools will automatically be “**in network**” providers for all health plans - commercial, public and private
- **Schools will have “Essential Community Provider” status**

What it means for schools

- Schools can soon bill a student's health plan for mental health services provided at or near school campuses.
- Includes not only Medi-Cal but **also COMMERCIAL health plans** (Kaiser, Blue Shield, etc.).

Details

- State is establishing a Statewide All Payer Fee Schedule for school-based behavioral health services which sets the rates schools can bill for services
- Will be a new revenue stream to pay for school-based mental health services
- Requires districts to systematically begin collecting medical insurance information from all students
- Timeline: 2024-25 will be pilot year. 2025-26 expansion to all districts

Proposed Scope of Services fall into four categories:

- Psycho-education
- Screenings and Assessments
- Treatment
- Care Coordination

