



Medical Assistance (MA) is Pennsylvania's Medicaid program providing healthcare coverage for eligible children and adults. MA supports students with disabilities and special healthcare needs by covering medically necessary services in schools.

Who Qualifies for MA? Children may qualify based on family income, disability status, or participation in assistance programs. Eligibility under PH-95 ("loophole" provision) allows many children with disabilities to qualify regardless of family income.

School-Based Services Covered by MA:

- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Behavioral Health Services
- Nursing Services
- Psychological and Counseling Services
- Personal Care Assistance
- Audiology Services

How It Works: Schools can enroll as MA providers to receive reimbursement for services provided to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Parents must consent for schools to bill MA. Services in schools do not affect MA benefits outside of school.

Benefits of MA for School-Based Services:

- Expands access to healthcare services in educational settings.
- Supports academic and developmental goals of students.
- Provides funding to schools without costs to families.

School Impacts of Federal Budget Cuts to MA:

- Reduced Reimbursement for Therapies and Health Services.
- Fewer Services for Students with Disabilities
- Increased Financial Burden on Schools
- Stricter Eligibility Requirements
- Staffing Challenges, increasing wait times for evaluations and therapy.

Impact on Early Intervention & Special Education: Cuts could delay support for young children with disabilities, affecting long-term development and readiness for school.