

## Options for Providing Related Services for Medi-Cal Eligible Students

### Eligible Students

The individualized education program (IEP) team, by following the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), determines the needs of the student and decides on the appropriate related service(s). The local educational agency (LEA) will provide the service(s) and make an administrative decision on the appropriate source for rendering service(s).

#### Option 1

##### LEA-based Special Education and Related Service(s)



Service(s) are provided by the District and practitioners are:

- School district employees
- Qualified providers contracted by the school district

**District pays for service(s).**

and/or

#### Option 2

##### LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program



For an LEA enrolled in the program, practitioners are:

- Employees of the enrolled LEA
- LEA contracted qualified private providers

**The LEA pays for the service(s) and files for reimbursement.**

and/or

#### Option 3

##### County Mental Health Plan (MHP)



For specialty mental health service(s), MHP practitioners are:

- Qualified employees of MHP
- MHP contracted qualified organizational providers such as:

1. Community-based Organizations (non-profits 501c3)
2. MHP certified LEA providers

**County MHP will pay for service(s) and file for reimbursement.**

#### Notes:

- LEA may choose to use all three options concurrently based on the specific related service(s) being delivered.
- Funding streams should not be comingled for the provision of the same service.
- Under the current structure of the State Medicaid Plan and the Specialty Mental Health Care Waiver, LEAs cannot directly bill for Medi-Cal specialty mental health service(s). To access service(s), bill for service(s), and claim reimbursement(s), an LEA must go through the county MHP.
- As a future option, if the education community decides to pursue direct billing for Medi-Cal specialty mental health service(s), it could request that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) consider a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to modify the 1915(b) waiver to allow LEAs to also become MHPs similar to counties.