

Although the need for school mental health services have continually increased, the billing and federal Medicaid reimbursements have decreased. Medicaid is the primary payer for Individual Educational Plan (IEP) health related services in the schools, yet schools are failing to access these federal Medicaid funds. Medicaid is the primary payer for IEP health related services in the schools, not the LEA's; however schools are drawing down their educational funds to provide these services adding to the increasing cross subsidy. Federal Medicaid funding also helps increase health equity across schools by targeting reimbursement to schools billing for higher rates of Medicaid penetration.

This brief summarizes school district participation in Medicaid reimbursement of school-based mental health services through the state's Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) program, and reimbursements to school districts for school-based mental health services through CTSS. In addition, data is summarized from a survey of school social workers conducted to understand the constraints of school districts in delivering school-based mental health services that are reimbursed with Medicaid through CTSS.

Number of Students with Disabilities Receiving School-Based Mental Health Services Reimbursed with Medicaid through CTSS

Year	Special education child count	Emotional/Behavioral Disorder Child Count	Number of students receiving school-based mental health services that were reimbursed with Medicaid through CTSS (option 2&3)
2015-2016	133,678	14,928	1,469
2016-2017	137,601	15,448	1,202
2017-2018	142,270	15,983	1,026
2018-2019	147,605	16,814	734

Analysis of Data: As the number of students with disabilities serviced by Minnesota school districts has increased, including students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorder (EBD), the number of students for whom school districts receive Medicaid reimbursement through CTSS for providing school-based mental health services has decreased. The number one reported reason for decline is the duplicative paperwork of both special education due process and CTSS.

Number of School Districts Receiving Medicaid Reimbursements for School-Based Mental Health Services through CTSS

Year	Number of Minnesota School Districts	Number of Minnesota School Districts Receiving CTSS Reimbursements for School-Based Mental Health Services	Total Medicaid Revenue to School Districts for School-based Mental Health Services
2015-2016	555	60	1,860,700
2016-2017	558	52	1,647,201
2017-2018	564	48	1,270,873
2018-2019	554	35	\$1,299,617

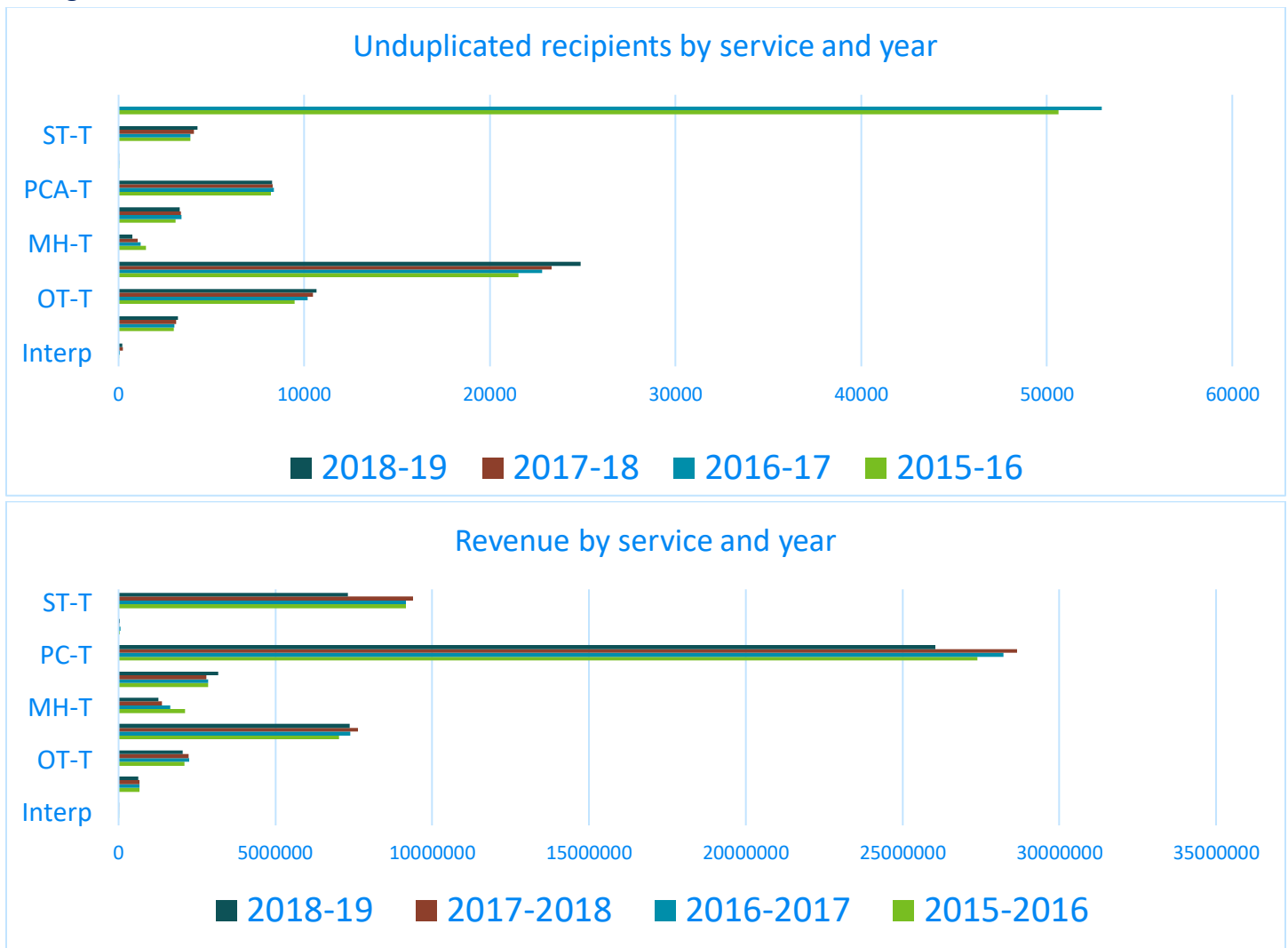
Analysis of Data: The number of school districts receiving Medicaid reimbursements for school-based mental health services through CTSS has declined for over 3 years. The total Medicaid revenue to Minnesota school districts for school-based mental health services through CTSS has mostly declined annually since 2015.

Revised: MM/DD/YYYY

A. Survey of School Social Workers

- Purpose:** MDE developed an online survey of school social workers to understand the capacity and constraints of school districts in delivering school-based mental health services that are reimbursed with Medicaid through CTSS.
- Participation:** The survey was completed by 118 school social workers across Minnesota.
- Results:** Social worker's reported 88% of students receiving school social work services are not being billed. The #1 barriers to billing for school social work services is the burden of the duplicative paperwork required of CTSS and the Special Education due process. Schools responded, if allowed to bill for school social work services without the constraints of CTSS, rather under school eligibility criteria, **like all other health related services provided in the school**, schools would have more billing opportunities.

Billing DATA



Analysis of Data: Currently, other than interpreter services, mental health services are billed and reimbursed less than all other health related services provided to Minnesota students with a disability. Medicaid is the primary payer of IEP/IFSP health related services, yet schools are using their educational funds to provide these services adding to and increasing the cross subsidy.

Statute 256B.0625

Covered services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language therapy, clinical psychological services, nursing services, school psychological services, school social work services, personal care assistants serving as management aides, assistive technology devices, transportation services, health assessments, and other services covered under the medical assistance state plan

Individual Educational Plan (IEP)/ Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) criteria for special education eligibility

- Pre-referral interventions
- Comprehensive Evaluation/Assessments
- Develop an IEP/IFSP
- Progress reports
- Case notes/clinical notes/progress notes
- Administering and reporting standardized measures

School Social Work Services

School social workers meet definition of MH Professionals or MH practitioners

Schools are NOT able to bill for SSW services based on special education eligibility criteria

Must be Childrens Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) certified

OT/PT/Nursing/ Speech Pathologist

Provided by Qualified providers

Schools may bill for services based on special education eligibility criteria

Bill

CTSS certification requirements

- CTSS Certification and re-certification
- Diagnostic Assessments (DA)
- Develop an Individual Treatment Plan (ITP)
- Progress notes
- Review the ITP every 90 days

School may bill for school social work services based on CTSS AND special education criteria

Bill

245.462 DEFINITIONS

Mental health professional & Practitioner

DHS provider criteria necessary for
billing

Mental Health Practitioner is qualified by a bachelor's or master's degree if the practitioner:

- (1) holds a master's or other graduate degree in behavioral sciences or related fields; or
- (2) holds a bachelor's degree in behavioral sciences or related fields and completes a practicum or internship that (i) requires direct interaction with adults or children served, and (ii) is focused on behavioral sciences or related fields

Mental health professional means a person providing clinical services in the treatment of mental illness who is qualified in at least one of the following ways:

- (2) in clinical social work: a person licensed as an independent clinical social worker under chapter 148D, or a person with a master's degree in social work from an accredited college or university, with at least 4,000 hours of post-master's supervised experience in the delivery of clinical services in the treatment of mental illness;

8710.6300

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER licensure requirements

Must have Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board school social worker licensure **AND** hold a current Board of Social Work licensure to practice as a school social worker in one of the following:

LSW (Qualified Mental Health Practitioner)

Academic Degree: Baccalaureate (bachelor's) degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work

Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Bachelors exam

LGSW (Qualified Mental Health Practitioner)

Academic Degree: Master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work

Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Masters exam

LISW (Qualified Mental Health Practitioner)

Academic Degree: Master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work

Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Advanced Generalist exam

Supervised Practice: Documentation of 4,000 hours of nonclinical supervised practice is required (*review complete requirements under Application Process by examination or endorsement below*)

LICSW (Qualified Mental Health Professional)

Academic Degree: Master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work

360 Clinical Clock Hours: If applying by examination, documentation of 360 clock hours in six clinical knowledge areas is required (*not required for applications by endorsement; review complete requirements under Application Process below*)

Examination: Passing score on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical exam

Supervised Practice: Documentation of 4,000 hours of clinical supervised practice is required (*review complete requirements under Application Process by examination or endorsement below*)

