

Chapter 35

School-Based Community Services

NOTE: Please review the following detail for specific processes and expectations with South Country Health Alliance (South Country). South Country may vary from the Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Manual and Minnesota Department of Human Services Guidelines. For additional detail on this chapter, please go to the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Manual at MHCP Provider Manual. [Provider Manual Table of Contents](https://state.mn.us/provider-manual-table-of-contents) (state.mn.us)

Billing Information – Please review the South Country Provider Manual Chapter 4 Provider Billing for general billing processes and procedures. [Provider Manual – South Country Health Alliance \(mnscha.org\)](https://mnscha.org).

School-Based Community Services (SBCS)

School-Based Community Services are certain medically necessary services that South Country will reimburse when provided to children in the school by a qualified health care provider employed or contracted by the school. .

SCBS are not new or expanded services; they are part of the Medical Assistance (MA) benefit package. Schools have the option of providing these services to help students that are not receiving health-related services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). In addition, some children on an IEP or IFSP may also qualify for SBCS services not covered under their existing program or when the service is not identified in the IEP.

Eligible Providers

Eligible providers include those who are eligible to provide the specific professional services needed for SBCS. See the covered services section of the Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) manual for a complete list of eligible providers.

Schools must verify the rendering provider's credentials, licensure and certifications to ensure they are current and meet the requirements for the services provided.

Enrollment Information

School districts or schools must enroll in MHCP to provide school-based community services.

Before the school can bill for SBCS, the schools must notify their qualified professionals that they must obtain an NPI and enroll with MHCP to be eligible to be reimbursed for school-based community services.

Currently enrolled schools

Schools currently enrolled with MHCP to provide IEP or IFSP services will need to submit the completed DHS-8084 School-Based Community Services (Intent to Bill). After MHCP receives and approves a school's School-Based Community Services (Intent to Bill) (DHS-8084), the school will be the SBCS provider. Schools that wish to provide SCBS can add multiple SBCS to one record.

New Enrollment for Schools

Schools not enrolled as MHCP IEP providers will need to follow the [IEP Enrollment Criteria and Forms](#) in the MHCP Provider Manual to enroll. DHS requires schools to meet the same requirements and coverage criteria as other MHCP community service providers.

Schools that are interested in providing public health nursing services will need to enroll as a Public Health Nursing Clinic (PHNC) with MHCP. PHNCs do not need to submit the School-Based Community Services (Intent to Bill)(DHS-8084). Refer to the Public Health Nursing Clinic (PHNC) Enrollment Criteria and Forms section under Provider Basics in the MHCP Provider Manual for more information on enrollment. Please refer to School-Based PHNC under [Clinic Services \(state.mn.us\)](#) in the MHCP Provider Manual for more information on the PHNC covered services and billing information.

Member Eligibility

Eligible members for SBCS must be under the age of 21 and actively enrolled in South Country's Medicaid program or MinnesotaCare program. It is the provider's responsibility to obtain and verify member eligibility. South Country highly recommends that providers verify member eligibility before rendering service. Providers may verify member eligibility and benefits via the [South Country Provider Portal](#) or [MN-ITS](#).

Covered Services

- Occupational therapy;
- Physical therapy;
- Speech-language and audiology;
- Outpatient mental health;
- Children's therapeutic services and supports;
- Diagnostic assessments;
- Explanation of findings;
- Family psychoeducation;
- Health and behavioral health assessments;
- Psychological testing;
- Psychotherapy; and
- Psychotherapy for crisis.

South Country does not require medical authorization for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology/audiology and Public Health Nursing. South Country does not require authorization for outpatient mental health services and follows MHCP benefit threshold limits. For details on requesting authorization for mental health services beyond the members benefit limits refer to [South Country Provider Manual Chapter 22, Behavioral Health](#).

South Country will reimburse interpreter services as a related service when it is necessary to communicate with the child or parent(s) during a covered SBCS or evaluation. Refer to [South Country Provider Manual Chapter 26, Interpreter Services](#).

Noncovered Services

The following services are not covered services for SBCS.

- Personal care assistance;
- Assistive technology; and
- Special transportation.

Refer to the noncovered services information provided under each specific service type for complete listings of noncovered services in the [South Country Provider Manual](#).

Third Party Liability (TPL)

Enroll with third party payers, as appropriate, following the third party insurer's guidelines. If additional insurance is available, you must first bill the TPL. South Country is always the payer of last resort.

Non-Contracted Providers

Non-Contracted providers may submit claims to South Country for reimbursement after completing the necessary forms found on [South Country Non-Contracted Providers](#) webpage. Prior authorization requirements may apply.

Billing

When billing for SBCS, list the qualified professional as the treating or rendering provider on the claim for which they will be providing services and list the school as the pay-to provider. List the place of service as 03 (school) when appropriate.

Use the correct procedure codes and modifiers as appropriate. Some services may require additional modifiers.

Note – Refer to the appropriate [South Country Provider Manual](#) chapter and the [MHCP Provider Manual](#) for more information on requirements for timed codes, benefit limits and authorization requirements.

Tribal providers should refer to Tribal and Federal Indian Health Services in the MHCP Provider Manual for more information regarding provider eligibility.