

Children who are healthy and have access to the care and treatment they need are better able to enter school ready to learn and to remain engaged in the classroom. A strong Missouri Medicaid program ensures that low-income students in Missouri have the comprehensive, continuous health coverage they need to focus on learning.

Medicaid ensures that kids come to school healthy and ready to learn.

- Nearly 1 in 3 school age children in Missouri rely on Medicaid for health coverage,ⁱ making a strong Medicaid program key to ensuring children are healthy and ready to learn.
- In many Missouri school districts, particularly in rural and urban areas, well over half of all students are enrolled in Medicaid.ⁱⁱ

Medicaid Coverage During Childhood Has Been Linked to:



Higher
High School &
College
Graduation Ratesⁱⁱⁱ



Fewer Missed^{iv}
School Days



Improved
Kindergarten
Readiness^v



Higher
Reading
Scores^{vi}

Medicaid also supports school infrastructure by providing funding for:^{vii}

- Health services needed to support students with special needs through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Screenings, diagnoses, and treatment services for students from low-wage families through the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment Benefits (EPSDT) benefit, including vision and hearing screenings, and diabetes and asthma diagnosis and management.
- Salaries of school staff such as school nurses and counselors who provide reimburseable services to students.
- Services provided through school-based health centers, including behavioral health services for students.

- i. U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey (ACS), 2018 1-Year Estimates, Table B27007.
- ii. Lauren Roygardner, Lina Stolyar (2019) Medicaid/CHIP coverage of children by school district for 2013 to 2017. Georgetown Center for Children and Families.
- iii. Cohodes, S. R., Grossman, D. S., Kleiner, S. A., & Lovenheim, M. F. (2016). The effect of child health insurance access on schooling: Evidence from public insurance expansions. *Journal of Human Resources*, 51(3), 727-759.
- iv. Zhang, S. (2009). Do Our Children Become Healthier and Wiser? A Study of the Effect of Medicaid Coverage on School Absenteeism
- v. Pittard, William B 3rd et al. "School readiness among children insured by Medicaid, South Carolina." *Preventing chronic disease* vol. 9 (2012): E111. doi:10.5888/pcd9.110333)
- vi. Levine, P. B., & Schanzenbach, D. (2009, May). The impact of children's public health insurance expansions on educational outcomes. In *Forum for Health Economics & Policy* (Vol. 12, No. 1). De Gruyter.
- vii. Sasha Pudelski, "Cutting Medicaid: A Prescription to Hurt the Neediest Kids," AASA, the School Superintendents Association, January 2017, http://aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Policy_and_Advocacy/Resources/medicaid.pdf.