



# Medicaid mental health awareness in schools

## Stakeholder outreach & education toolkit

### TOOLKIT INCLUDES:

- Outreach flyer
- Letter to schools
- Letter to families
- Additional helpful resources



## Why Medicaid mental health awareness matters

Thousands of students across Pennsylvania qualify for Medicaid but may not be accessing behavioral health care. Schools are in a unique position to help families connect to services that support emotional well-being, learning, and long-term success.

### What Medicaid covers (HealthChoices Behavioral Health):

- Therapy (individual, group, family)
- Psychiatric care and medication management
- Drug and alcohol treatment services
- Case management
- Crisis intervention
- Peer support
- School-based and community-based services

### Who is eligible:

Students enrolled in Medicaid (Medical Assistance) are eligible for these services at no cost. Magellan administers Behavioral Health Medicaid services in Montgomery County.

### What schools can do:

- Share awareness letters with families
- Post links on school websites
- Encourage Medicaid enrollment for eligible students
- Refer students in distress to school counselors or partner providers
- Connect with Magellan for training and materials

### Why it works:

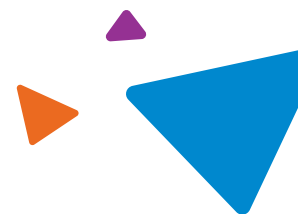
Schools that increase awareness see better student engagement, fewer disruptions, and improved academic performance.



**Scan the QR code to access  
helpful resources online**

[MagellanofPA.com/ma-toolkit-for-schools](https://www.MagellanofPA.com/ma-toolkit-for-schools)

October 15, 2025



Dear School Community Partners,

We are writing to express our shared concern about the unprecedented and ongoing decline in children's enrollment in Pennsylvania's Medicaid program (also known as HealthChoices). As organizations committed to the health and well-being of students across our region, we are alarmed by the number of eligible children who are losing critical health coverage.

Recent changes in Medicaid redetermination processes have caused a steep drop in coverage, leaving many of our most vulnerable students without access to behavioral health care, medication management, and school-based Medical Assistance services. The consequences are already being felt in our schools—missed therapy sessions, gaps in crisis response, and increased pressure on educators and support staff.

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Magellan) and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) are jointly urging school districts to assist in a renewed outreach and education effort to families.

This includes:

- Encouraging families to check their Medicaid status and renew coverage through COMPASS, Pennsylvania's online benefits portal, at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).
- Sharing information about the PH-95 "loophole," which allows children with disabilities to qualify for Medicaid regardless of family income.
- Promoting school-based Medical Assistance programs that rely on active Medicaid enrollment to deliver essential services.

Families may not be aware that their children have lost coverage—or that they can reapply today. Many only learn when a service is denied or a need arises. Schools are uniquely positioned to support this effort by including messaging in newsletters, back-to-school packets, and during IEP/504 planning meetings.

For additional background and state-level resources, we encourage you to visit the PA Department of Human Services Medicaid Resources page at [www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html).

We've enclosed the following materials for your review and potential distribution:

- A flyer about PH-95 eligibility.
- A COMPASS application and renewal overview.
- A customer service resource to help families navigate the process.
- A newsletter blurb that schools could include in communications to families.

Together, we can help close the coverage gap and ensure students have uninterrupted access to the supports they need to thrive in school and beyond.

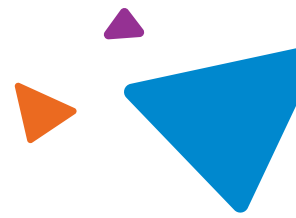
We welcome collaboration with school leadership to coordinate outreach, and we would be happy to provide additional information and support upon request.

Sincerely,

*Jeanne Ewing*  
Senior Account Executive  
Magellan Behavioral Health of  
Pennsylvania, Inc.

*Brittany Lourea-Waddell, Ph.D., NCSP*  
Director of Student Services  
ExplorationsPHP Director of  
Treatment  
Montgomery County Intermediate  
Unit

*LeeAnn Moyer*  
Administrator, Office of Managed  
Care Solutions  
Montgomery County Department  
of Health and Human Services



Dear Parents and Families,

We care deeply about your child's health and well-being. That's why we want to let you know that many children across Pennsylvania have recently lost their Medicaid health insurance (called HealthChoices)—and many families don't even realize it.

This means some kids are no longer getting the care they need—like therapy, medicine, or help at school—because their coverage has stopped. We don't want this to happen to your family. And if it already has, we want to make sure you have the tools to fix it.

**Please check your child's Medicaid status today.** You can renew or apply for coverage online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

If your child has a disability, they may qualify for a special Medicaid rule called PH-95. This rule lets children get coverage no matter what your family earns.

To help you, we've included:

- A flyer about PH-95
- A simple guide to renewing benefits using COMPASS
- A list of phone numbers for questions

#### **Need help?**

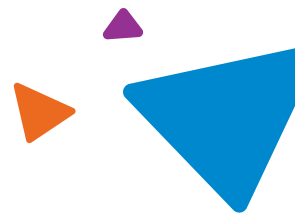
- Call the Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930 (or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia). They can help you check your case, make updates, or answer questions. Open Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- For help applying through COMPASS, call the COMPASS Helpline at 1-800-692-7462.

You can also visit [www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html) to learn more.

Taking this step now can help make sure your child doesn't miss out on the care they need to stay healthy and succeed.

Sincerely,

*Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania  
Montgomery County Intermediate Unit  
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services*



Estimados padres y familias:

Nos preocupamos profundamente por la salud y el bienestar de su hijo. Es por eso que queremos informarle que muchos niños en Pensilvania han perdido recientemente su seguro de salud de Medicaid (llamado HealthChoices), y muchas familias ni siquiera se dan cuenta.

Esto significa que algunos niños ya no están recibiendo la atención que necesitan, como terapia, medicamentos o ayuda en la escuela, porque su cobertura se ha detenido. No queremos que esto le pase a su familia. Y si ya le pasó, queremos asegurarnos de que tenga las herramientas para solucionarlo.

**Verifique el estado de Medicaid de su hijo hoy.** Puede renovar o solicitar cobertura en línea en [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

Si su hijo tiene una discapacidad, puede calificar para una regla especial de Medicaid llamada PH-95. Esta regla permite que los hijos obtengan cobertura sin importar lo que gane su familia.

Para ayudarlo, hemos incluido:

- Un folleto sobre PH-95
- Una guía sencilla para renovar beneficios con COMPASS
- Una lista de números de teléfono para preguntas

#### **¿Necesita ayuda?**

- Llame al Centro de Servicio al Cliente al 1-877-395-8930 (o al 215-560-7226 en Filadelfia). Pueden ayudarlo a revisar su caso, hacer actualizaciones o responder preguntas. El horario de atención es de lunes a viernes de, 8:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m.
- Para obtener ayuda para presentar una solicitud a través de COMPASS, llame a la línea de ayuda de COMPASS al 1-800-692-7462.

También puede visitar [www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html) para obtener más información.

Tomar esta medida ahora puede ayudar a garantizar que su hijo no pierda la atención que necesita para mantenerse saludable y tener éxito.

Atentamente,

*Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania  
Montgomery County Intermediate Unit  
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services*



# Newsletter language for schools

## Important: Check your child's Medicaid coverage

Many children in Pennsylvania have recently lost their Medicaid (HealthChoices) insurance without knowing it. This means some kids may not be getting the health care or mental health services they need—including help at school.

Please check your child's coverage. You can renew or apply for Medicaid online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

If your child has a disability, they may still qualify no matter what your family earns. This is called the PH-95 rule.

To learn more, visit the PA Department of Human Services website: [www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid.html).

### Need help?

- Call the Customer Service Center at 1-877-395-8930 (or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia). They can help you check your case, make updates, or answer questions. Open Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
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## Additional helpful resources

Included in this packet:

- A flyer about PH-95 eligibility
- A simple COMPASS application and renewal guide
- A DHS Customer Service Center resource
- A Magellan flyer on Medicaid awareness

These materials are designed to be shared with families and used in school communications to prevent disruptions in student access to mental health and support services.