

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Medicaid in the Schools, April 2020**

The MITs team has been actively working to support school personnel with the continuation of Medicaid related student service needs and providing billing technical assistance in response to the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

State Medicaid Policy

On March 23, 2020, the Division of Medical Services (DMS-Medicaid) released a policy update regarding the use of telehealth for Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy during the COVID-19 outbreak. The memorandum allows for therapy to be provided in the home of a student via telehealth and widens the technology options for this purpose. The DESE has distributed this information to various school personnel along with a document providing clarifying points regarding the new DMS-Medicaid policy. The DMS memorandum may be found at the following website:

https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/resources/Memorandum_DMS-04_%28DD-therapy-telehealth%29%28FINAL%29.pdf

On March 18, the Division of Medical Services (DMS-Medicaid) released a similar policy update regarding the use of telehealth for behavioral health services during the COVID-19 outbreak. The memorandum suspends the rule related to originating site requirements for certain behavioral health providers to provide counseling services, as well as provides for any technology deemed appropriate for real-time communication. The DMS memorandum may be found at the following website:

https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/resources/MEMORANDUM_DMS-02_%28OBH_telehealth%29_3-19-20.pdf

Up-to-date MITS related information may be found at: <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/learning-services/school-health-services/arkansas-medicaid-in-the-schools>