

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](#) (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 \(mnscha.org\)](#).

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.

Before the school can bill for SBCS, the school must notify the qualified professionals that they are required to obtain a National Provider Identifier and enroll with MHCP. The individual rendering provider must follow the enrollment criteria according to the covered service they are qualified to provide.

Enrollment Information

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

Effective Oct 1., 2025, schools or school districts currently delivering or seeking to deliver school-based community services (SBCS) must obtain a separate national provider identifier and enroll a separate IEP SBCS record.

Refer to [IEP Enrollment Criteria and Forms](#) under Enrollment with MHCP in the MHCP Provider Manual for information on how to enroll.

Schools that wish to provide SCBS can add multiple SBCS to one record.

Schools that are interested in providing public health nursing services will need to enroll as a Public Health Nursing Clinic (PHNC) with MHCP. 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 behavior assessment/intervention;
- 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.