

### Medicaid and Mental Health: Why Request Service Reimbursement

As highlighted during a recent webinar hosted by Teach Plus Arkansas, about 38,206 Arkansas students received professional mental-health services through schools (on-campus or off-campus) during the 2024–2025 school year.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, many more students went without these critical services due to access limitations and financial barriers. Leveraging reimbursement for school health services ensures increased access for all Arkansas students.

### Supporting the Whole Child: Mental Health and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Service Models

#### Mental Health Services

**Objective:** To help students feel better emotionally so that they can participate in school.

- + Emotions
- + Anxiety, Trauma, Depression
- + Emotional Therapy

#### ABA Services

**Objective:** To help students learn functional skills and positive behaviors to succeed in school.

- + Behaviors
- + Communication, social skills
- + Skills training

#### Service Models

1. Mental Health Agency Partnership Model
2. School Employed Provider Model
3. School-Employed Provider/Mental Health Agency Partnership Models

### Direct Services, Tiered Supports, and Billing

#### Provided Services

##### 1. Direct Services:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| + Speech Therapy       | + Mental Health      |
| + Occupational Therapy | + Vision and Hearing |
| + Physical Therapy     | + ABA                |
| + Audiology            | + Personal Care      |

## 2. Indirect Services: ARMAC

### Tiered Services

Tier	Eligibility Basis	Service Intensity	Typical Services Provided
1	Assessed as not meeting criteria for higher tiers	Basic	Counseling & medication management (outpatient)
2	Functional needs beyond basic care	Moderate	Expanded outpatient & rehabilitative services, care coordination
3	Significant dysfunction needed residential, 24/7 support	High	Intensive/residential services, community reintegration

### Billing

School districts and Education Service Cooperatives (ESCs) may seek Medicaid reimbursement as a School-Based Mental Health provider for services delivered by a qualified mental health professional who is an employee of the Local Education Agency (LEA), provided the LEA first meets the requirements outlined in the Arkansas Department of Education School-Based Mental Health Manual and obtains ADE certification before applying for Arkansas Medicaid provider enrollment.

- + Therapy Services: Occupational, Physical, and Speech
- + Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (the vision and hearing portion)
- + Audiology Services
- + Personal Care
- + School-Based Mental Health Services



Webinar Recording



MITS Website

**For more information, contact Rachel Riggsby at [rriggsby@teachplus.org](mailto:rriggsby@teachplus.org)**

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2025). An update on school health services in Arkansas 2024–2025. School Health Services Report