

To: TennCare MCOs
From: Johnny Lai, Director of Managed Care Operations
Date: May 29, 2026
Subject: School-based Behavioral Health Liaisons

The School-based Behavioral Health Liaison program is a grant funded program funded by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), where behavioral health liaisons are employed by local mental health agencies (MHAs) and – through the coordination of TDMHSAS and local education agency (LEA) leadership – are strategically placed to deliver behavioral health services to schools with an identified need.

School-based behavioral health liaison services billed to TennCare by MHAs must be medically necessary, TennCare covered services that are recommended by an independently licensed behavioral health clinician who:

- (1) is registered with TennCare and contracted and credentialed with the student's assigned TennCare Managed Care Organization (MCO);
- (2) is employed by the local mental health agency (MHA) that employs the school-based behavioral health liaison; and
- (3) provides clinical supervision for the school-based behavioral health liaison rendering TennCare school-based services

MHAs must meet requirements of and adhere to TennCare policies for services furnished by [Qualified Graduate Students and Candidates for Licensure](#). In a scenario where the independently licensed behavioral health clinician that is providing clinical supervision for the school-based behavioral health liaison happens to not be the independently licensed behavioral health clinician that initially recommended the services, this scenario is still reimbursable by TennCare's MCOs. Nothing herein suggests, implies, or dictates that TennCare MCOs must contract with a provider organization for billable services delivered by non-licensed school-based behavioral health liaisons based on LEA/TDMHSAS choice for grant funding of this program.

Clinical supervision of the school-based behavioral health liaison, when and where relevant to providing medically necessary services for TennCare members, must adhere to all the following requirements:

- The facility in which the therapist is practicing must be licensed as a Mental Health Outpatient Facility by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
- The facility in which the therapist is practicing contracts with one or more TennCare managed care organizations (MCOs) in a manner that allows for the unlicensed therapist to render behavioral health services while under the supervision of a licensed professional;
- The supervising professional must be licensed at an individual level and is practicing

- and providing supervision as defined and required by the scope of his/her license;
- The supervising professional must be registered with TennCare and contracted and credentialed with the student's TennCare MCO under the local MHA that will be reimbursed for the school-based behavioral health liaison's services;
 - School-based behavioral health services rendered by the school-based behavioral health liaison must be billed to the TennCare MCO under the supervising professional's National Provider Identifier (NPI) with place of service code "03";
 - Clinical supervision provided must meet the supervision guidelines and standards required by the TennCare MCO that contracts with the local Mental Health Agency; and
 - The local Mental Health Agency and supervising professional must maintain adequate medical and administrative records, including supervision logs and medical records. Furthermore, the records must be available for representatives of the student's TennCare MCO to review upon request
 - If the school-based behavioral health liaison is a graduate student, please refer to [TennCare's Policy](#) for additional standards and requirements.

Like all other medically necessary, covered school-based behavioral health services, billable TennCare services provided by school-based behavioral health liaisons are neither required to be included in the student's IEP nor IHP.

Billable services provided by school-based behavioral health Liaisons with parental/caretaker consent include:

Service	Billable (Y) / Non-Billable (N)
Individual counseling sessions	Y
Group counseling sessions	Y
Psychoeducation	Y
Mental health assessments and referrals for services and supports	N
Liaison services to foster positive relationships between the school, families, and other critical resources	N
Support and consultation to teachers and school personnel in implementing schoolwide trauma-informed practices	N
Training and education to school personnel in behavioral health topics (including mental health issues and substance abuse prevention) and trauma-informed approaches	N

For more information the school-based behavioral health liaison program, please visit the following link: [School-based Behavioral Health Liaisons](#).