COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

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Dear Parent/Caregiver:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the parental consent requirement for schools billing Medicaid or Family Access to Medical Insurance (FAMIS). If your child is now or later becomes eligible for Medicaid or FAMIS and he or she receives health-related services written in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the federal government can help the public school division pay for these health-related services. Health-related services can include, but are not limited to physical, occupational or speech therapy; audiology, nursing, psychological or personal care services and health screenings associated with Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT). Specialized transportation on days your child is receiving a health-related service may also be covered.

Parent/Guardian consent is required before the public school system can bill Medicaid or FAMIS. By obtaining this consent up front from all participants in the IEP process, the public school division can receive the maximum federal reimbursement for services provided rather than covering the costs only from local tax dollars.

Your consent is completely voluntary and used only for billing public insurance. Schools will not be billing your private insurance. Your child's health coverage for services outside the school system will not be impacted by the school billing Medicaid or FAMIS. If you do not give consent, it will not affect the services your child is entitled to. The public school division is still required to provide a free and appropriate public education, including any service in an IEP.

Billing public insurance for special education services is an important source of funding for our public school divisions. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Barton, LCSW with the Department of Medical Assistance Services at 804-371-7824.

Sincerely,

Gregg A. Pane, MD, MPA
Director