

# LB1106

Create a path for School Psychologists to obtain PLMHP and LMHP credentials that are reimbursable under the Medicaid in Public Schools Program (MIPS)

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## Nebraska has a student mental health crisis

1 in 5 Nebraska high school students have reported that they've contemplated committing suicide in the past year [1]. In 2018, suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 24 in Nebraska, and suicide among Nebraska youth has been steadily increasing since 2009 [2]. Just as troubling is a 2019 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association showing that, in Nebraska, nearly 50% of children with mental health disorders are going untreated [3].

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## Medicaid in Public Schools Program (MIPS)

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The Medicaid in Public Schools program (MIPS), is a program designed to access Federal Medicaid funds to pay for a portion of medically necessary care provided in schools, to students eligible for Medicaid. These services include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing, Personal Assistance Services, Mental Health, and Vision [4].

Without MIPS, Federal and State education funds and local funds would have to be used to pay for the full cost of these services. With MIPS, Medicaid reimburses the State for a portion of the care, lowering the costs to school districts, and expanding the level of care that can be provided in a school based setting [5]. Although 38 states allow school psychologists to receive Medicaid reimbursement for school-based services, however, Nebraska does not. The full breakdown of states is on the back of this fact sheet.

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## LB1106 Process

LB1106 would allow those with an educational specialist degree (more advanced than a master's degree, but less advanced than a doctorate) and school psychology accredited programs to be eligible to complete the existing LMHP and PLHP training requirements.

The requirements to obtain an LMHP would still include:

- 3,000 hours of supervised experience in mental health practice of which 1,500 hours were in direct client contact in a setting where mental health services were being offered and the remaining fifteen hundred hours included, but were not limited to, review of client records, case conferences, direct observation, and video observation.
- Passage of a board approved examination.

The requirements to obtain a PLMHP would still include:

- Apply for a PLMHP before earning 3,000 training hours
- Pay the PLMHP fee
- Credential will expire after receipt of licensure as a LMHP, or after five years

The goal of LB1106 is to create a bridge to licensure for those with school psychology degrees to train to obtain a LMHP.

[1] Nebraska DHHS Nebraska Behavioral Health Needs Assessment, 2016

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Behavioral%20Health%20Documents/Needs%20Assessment%20-%202016.pdf>

[2] DHHS, Title V Needs Assessment, 2020 <https://dhhs.ne.gov/2020%20Needs%20Assessment/10%20-%20Suicide.pdf>

[3] Journal of the American Medical Association, US National and State-Level Prevalence of Mental Health Disorders and Disparities of Mental Health Care Use in Children, 2019

[4] Nebraska DHHS, Guide for School-Based Direct Services (Medicaid in Public Schools), 2017 <https://dhhs.ne.gov/MCAH/School-MIPSGuideforSchool.pdf>

[5] Nebraska DHHS, Medicaid in Public Schools Manual, 2014 <https://docplayer.net/17552654-Medicaid-in-public-schools-mips.html>

Status of School Psychologists\*\* as Qualified Providers of School Based Medicaid Services

\*\*States highlighted issue a license to school psychologist

Specialist Level School Psychologists <b>ARE</b> Eligible	Specialist Level School Psychologists are <b>NOT</b> Eligible
Alabama	Arizona
Alaska	Arkansas
California	Georgia
Connecticut	Maine
Delaware	Maryland
District of Columbia	Nebraska
Florida	Nevada
Idaho	New York
Illinois	North Dakota
Indiana	Oregon
Iowa	Rhode Island
Kansas	Tennessee
Kentucky	Vermont
Louisiana	
Massachusetts	
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Missouri	
Montana	
New Hampshire*	
New Jersey	
New Mexico	
North Carolina	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
Pennsylvania	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Texas	
Utah	
Virginia*	
Washington	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	
*Must obtain license from Board of Psychology. Only requirement to obtain license is credential from Department of Education	