



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 15, 2013

Diana S. Dooley, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Dooley:

The purpose of this letter is to inquire about the status of the School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) and see how agencies can work together to aid school participation in the program. We have received a number of inquiries from local educational agencies (LEAs) who have expressed concerns about the June 2012 program deferral put in place by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which halted the ability to claim for reimbursable activities for most LEAs across the state.

Three general areas of concern were brought to my office's attention by numerous LEAs:

Current status of the deferral: I have been informed that claims from over 900 claiming units must be reviewed and cleared, so they may be able to receive prior year reimbursement. The lack of prior year reimbursements (from the 2010–11 school year) has resulted in an inability of schools to adequately budget and plan various programs and services, as these funds cannot be guaranteed to be available. It has been reported that LEAs have requested from the Department of Health Care Services, and have been denied, an expected date when this problem will be resolved.

Development of a new claiming methodology: LEAs report concern that they have not received information in regards to the time survey methodology from the DHCS that must be cleared by the CMS to be used for this upcoming school year. This has led some LEAs to question whether or not the program will be administered for the 2013–14 school year. Uncertainty of the status of this program is also contributing to the difficulty LEAs are having in planning for the upcoming school year.

Process and methodology status: LEAs are requesting a larger role in the reformulation of the state manual. As the primary of this program, their collective voice in the development of the manual is vital to the fidelity of the program.

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As the primary representative for LEAs in California, I would like to offer the assistance of the California Department of Education, to improve the communication with stakeholders for this crucial program. I would like to arrange time for our agencies' pertinent staff to meet and go over some of the issues raised in this letter. This meeting should take place soon, so schools will have sufficient information about the status of the program prior to the beginning of the 2013–14 school year for planning purposes. I appreciate this opportunity to partner with your office to resolve this matter.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Erika Webb Hughes, Federal Policy Liaison, Government Affairs Division, by phone at 916-319-0650 or by e-mail at ehughes@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

TT:ewh
2013-05766

cc: Toby Douglas, Director, Department of Health Care Services
Geri Baucom, Chief, Administrative Claiming, Local and School Services Branch,
Department of Health Care Services