



2001-2002

The PENNSYLVANIA School-Based *ACCESS* Program

A Program Summary

March 2003

presented to the PA Department of Education



Prepared by:

LEADER
SERVICES

Program Overview

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) is a cooperative effort between PDE, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW), the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and PDE's contractor, Leader Services.

Reimbursements received by schools through this program are used to enhance existing special education services, including the purchase of assistive technology and computers, or to fund additions to staff servicing the special education student population.

Each year, federal reimbursement continues to increase as additional services are billed by the participating LEAs. Twenty new school districts and seven new charter schools began billing during the 2001-2002 school year. The goal of the SBAP is to ensure that all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) receive reimbursement for the health-related IDEA services they provide, while ensuring compliance with program requirements.



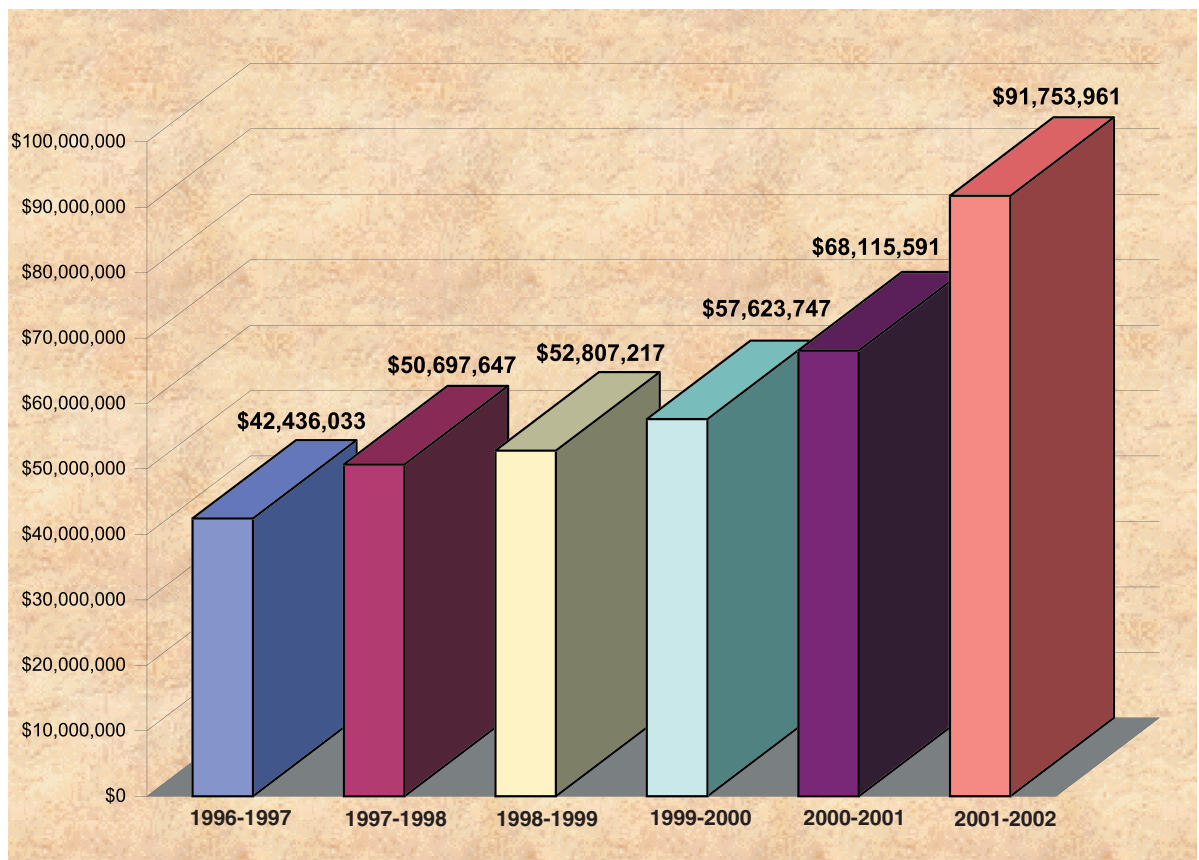
Reimbursable services include the following:

- Administrative Time Studies
- Assistive Devices
- Audiology
- IEP Development
- Interpreter Services
- Nursing Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Orientation and Mobility Services
- Personal Care Assistant Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Physician Services
- Psychological Services
- Psychiatric Services
- Social Work Services
- Speech, Language, and Hearing Services
- Teacher of the Hearing Impaired
- Transportation
- Vision Services

A History of Growth

The graph below represents the growth of the SBAP Direct Services program during the last six years. Ongoing growth in SBAP is due to the continued support of PDE, DPW, and the efforts of participating LEAs.

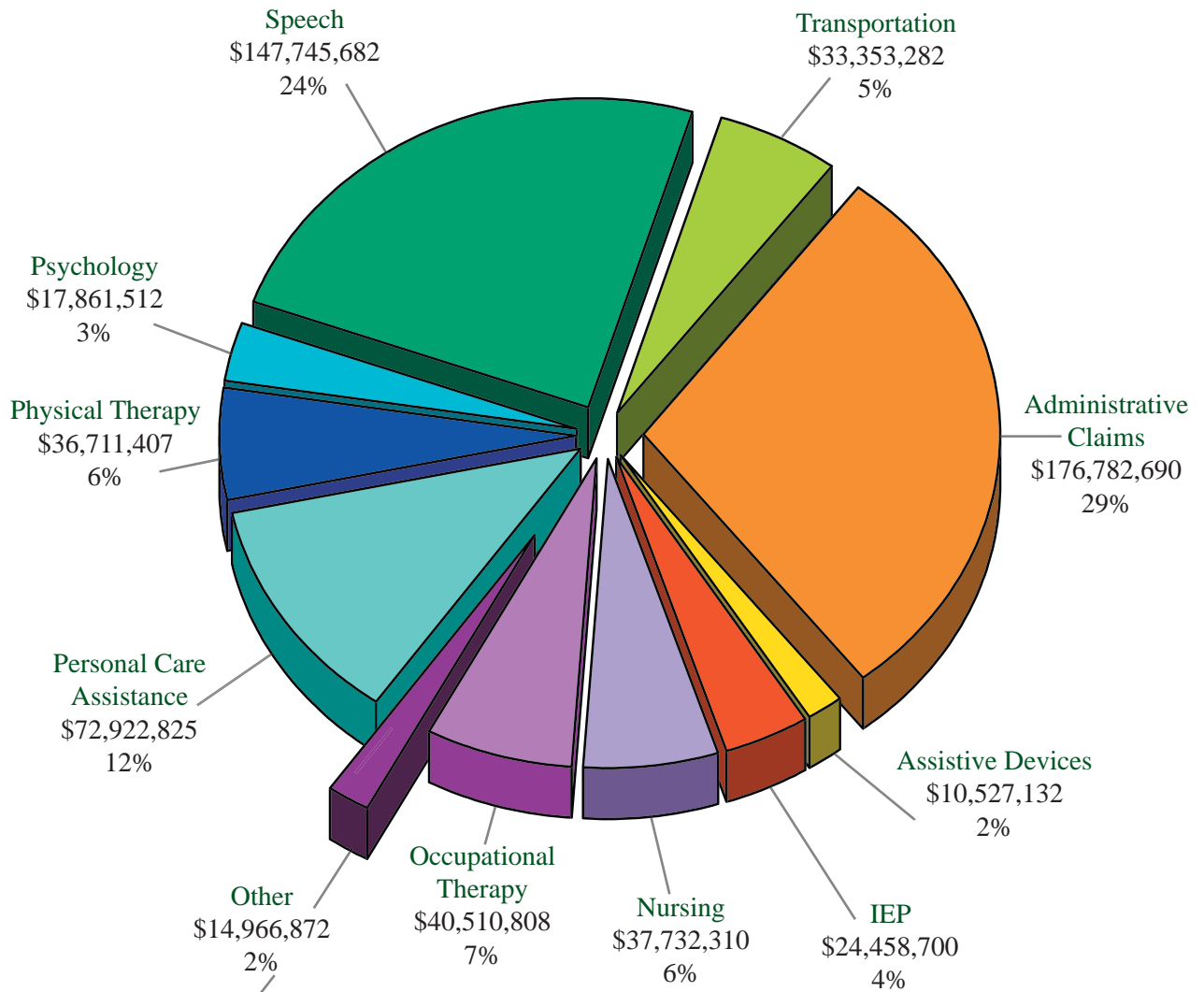
The number of services and the dollars recovered through the SBAP have steadily increased. Most of the health-related services provided by LEAs are now included in the program. PDE, DPW, and Leader work together to enhance those services, and Leader trains the LEA staff on the proper method to document and bill for services.



Note: From the program's inception in 1992 through June 1996, nearly \$70 million was billed in Direct Services (not shown on the chart).

Breakdown by Service

From program inception in June 1992 through June 2002, over \$600 million was billed to Medicaid on behalf of the Commonwealth. The graphics below detail the billing distribution by SBAP program element.



Audiology/Hearing	\$697,711	5%
Hearing Impaired	\$6,014,099	40%
O&M	\$2,905,609	19%
Physician	\$2,355,035	16%
Psychiatry	\$379,981	3%
Social Work	\$1,954,020	13%
Vision	\$660,417	4%

Top Ten LEA Lists

The following tables represent the top 10 LEAs by type and the amount that was billed on their behalf for Medicaid Direct Services reimbursement over the past two years.

	LEA Name	2000-2001	2001-2002
School Districts	ALTOONA AREA SD	\$1,666,152	\$2,161,732
	PITTSBURGH SD	\$1,949,720	\$2,047,942
	MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP SD	\$799,773	\$865,516
	READING SD	\$732,005	\$804,940
	SPRING-FORD AREA SD	\$2,450	\$675,037
	WILLIAMSPORT AREA	\$226,121	\$668,387
	BOYERTOWN AREA SD	\$2,100	\$652,165
	ERIE SD	\$463,733	\$629,585
	CHESTER-UPLAND SD	\$440,542	\$601,678
	HAZLETON AREA SD	\$275,930	\$545,005

	LEA Name	2000-2001	2001-2002
Approved Private Schools	ELWYN INC.	\$2,327,076	\$3,274,326
	WESTERN PA SCH BLIND CH	\$1,005,147	\$1,190,283
	DR. GERTRUDE A. BARBER CENTER	\$356,204	\$864,264
	GEORGE CROTHERS MEMORIAL SCHOOL	\$180,216	\$744,597
	DAVIDSON SCHOOL	\$695,132	\$658,076
	HMS SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH CP	\$331,474	\$508,402
	EDUCATION CENTER AT DT WATSON	\$414,635	\$482,409
	DELTA SCHOOL	\$325,917	\$463,891
	EASTER SEALS OF BUCKS CO	\$298,249	\$452,874
EASTER SEALS OF MONT CO	\$142,798	\$422,531	

	LEA Name	2000-2001	2001-2002
Intermediate Units	PHILADELPHIA AREA SD	\$8,291,020	\$9,395,807
	LINCOLN IU 12	\$3,702,170	\$4,326,827
	MONTGOMERY COUNTY IU 23	\$2,635,969	\$3,547,704
	BUCKS COUNTY IU 22	\$2,187,444	\$3,369,218
	CENTRAL IU 10	\$1,607,596	\$1,993,623
	ALLEGHENY IU 3	\$1,710,707	\$1,886,044
	CHESTER COUNTY IU 24	\$1,246,738	\$1,881,417
	LANCASTER-LEBANON IU 13	\$1,111,295	\$1,742,787
	INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1	\$935,420	\$1,557,215
	CENTRAL SUSQ IU 16	\$710,905	\$1,242,538

Behind the Scenes



Increased Federal Reimbursement

Direct Services billing increased from \$68,117,941 for the 2000-2001 school year to \$91,753,961 for the 2001-2002 school year. *This is an increase of \$23,636,020.*

Administrative Claims billing increased from \$15,056,379 for 2000-2001 to \$26,538,296 during 2001-2002. *This represents an increase of \$11,481,917.*

This total increase of over \$35,000,000 can largely be attributed to increased levels of participation by LEAs that are enrolled in the programs. Leader encouraged this participation by conducting more than 100 training sessions, fielding more than 2,700 phone calls, and meeting bi-monthly with PDE and DPW to ensure the program continued to run smoothly.

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Review

In July 2002, CMS visited Leader Services' headquarters in Hazleton to review its administration of the Pennsylvania Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) program. Staff from PDE, DPW, and Leader participated in the process, explaining program procedures and policies to CMS audit staff. Due to Leader's diligence in its documentation and record keeping practices, CMS found that no corrective action was needed and that the program conformed to CMS's approved methodology.

SBAP on the Web

Starting with the 2002-2003 school year, Leader made a new vehicle available for LEAs to process direct service transactions – the World Wide Web. The first application was deployed under the WebSDS name, and allows LEAs to enter Service Description Slip information.

The Web billing program allows for the generation of reports that are useful to both service providers and program coordinators. Expansion of the Web application will allow service providers to maintain a roster of their billable Medicaid students and maintain their service logs on the Web. Entering service information via the Web will expedite submission of LEA claims to DPW. LEAs can be assured that their data is secure and private by Leader Services' use of industry-standard Web technology, including firewalls, encryption, and secured server technology.

HIPAA Readiness

Leader Services is working with both PDE and DPW to ensure LEAs are in compliance with the mandated provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). PDE obtained an extension to HIPAA's data requirements for all participating LEAs. Leader is modifying its claims processing system and claims operations in accordance with HIPAA's Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) provisions. This will ensure that there is no interruption in the billing process when Leader submits claims to DPW on behalf of LEAs.

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