

San Diego Unified School District Parental Consent FAQ

This is an internal document to be used by SDUSD staff when answering parent/guardian questions about parental consent. Further information/clarification may be received by reaching out to the district Medi-Cal office or PCG representatives.

Q1. What is parental consent?

A1. Parental consent is the permission received from the student's parent/guardian to release confidential information to a third party outside a school district.

Q4. What kind of information will be shared?

A4. This information may include: student's name, student's date of birth, student's gender, student's Social Security number, student's Medi-Cal ID, and services that the student has received (as listed on claims to Medi-Cal).

Q2. What is Medi-Cal?

A2. Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid agency. Medi-Cal provides health insurance and long-term care coverage to low-income children, their parents, elderly and disabled individuals in California.

Q3. What is the LEA billing program?

A3. The LEA billing program (Local Education Agency Billing program) is a reimbursement program that returns federal dollars to school districts for medical services that are provided to students on IFSPs/IEPs who are also enrolled in Medi-Cal. SDUSD can submit claims for services provided to eligible students and will be reimbursed at cost per service provided for eligible claims.

Q5. Why does SDUSD need to share this information?

A5. SDUSD provides medical services to your child as prescribed on their IFSP/IEP at no cost to you. In order to recover a portion of the costs for these services, SDUSD participates in Medi-Cal's LEA billing program and requires your parental consent to share your child's personal information with Medi-Cal.

Q11. Who is requiring parental consent?

A11. The US Department of Education administers the Families Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits, with limited exceptions, school districts from disclosing personally identifiable student information, like the information submitted to Medi-Cal in LEA billing. Though Medi-Cal is not the enforcing agency, it requires school districts to comply with FERPA in participation in the LEA billing program.

Q9. With whom does SDUSD share this information?

A9. SDUSD shares this information with Medi-Cal in the form of claims for reimbursement and with Public Consulting Group (PCG), which is SDUSD's contracted vendor for LEA billing.

Q10. What will Medi-Cal and PCG do with this information?

A10. PCG and Medi-Cal are required to keep all student information confidential and will only use it for specific billing purposes. PCG transmits the student information along with service information

only to Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal uses this information to identify Medi-Cal eligible students and to reimburse SDUSD for providing medical services to your child.

Q12. Does providing parental consent mean I have to enroll in Medi-Cal?

A12. No. Providing parental consent does not require you to enroll in any public benefits or insurance programs such as Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

Q13. Why should I agree if my child is not enrolled in Medi-Cal?

A13. Participation in the LEA billing program helps to support SDUSD's costs in providing your child's services as prescribed in the IEP. If over the course of the IEP your child becomes enrolled in Medi-Cal, then the district may bill for services from date of consent.

Q14. Will SDUSD discontinue services provided to my student as prescribed in their IFSP/IEP if I do not provide parental consent or if I revoke my consent in the future?

A14. No. The district must continue to provide necessary medical services to your child at no cost to you even if you choose not to provide consent or revoke consent in the future.

Q15. Does this cost me, the parent, anything?

A15. No. Parental consent to release this information will cost you nothing.

Q16. Will providing parental consent lead to any future costs to me as the parent?

A16. No. You will never be required to pay any out-of-pocket costs for medical services provided by the school district to your child as prescribed in their IFSP/IEP.

Q17. If providing my parental consent results in a reimbursement to SDUSD, will this payment affect any insurance or benefits I currently hold or may seek out in the future?

A17. No. Reimbursements made to SDUSD as a result of your parental consent will not decrease any insurance benefits, increase any insurance premiums or lead to the discontinuation of any public benefits that your family receives. Furthermore, your consent will not require you or your family to pay for health services that are otherwise state-covered or prevent you from participation in any community-based, state-sponsored health programs.

Q18. How long is my parental consent active?

A18. Your parental consent is active from the date of signature on the IEP for the span of that IEP.

Q19. How do I revoke parental consent?

A19. At any time, you may provide a written notice to SDUSD revoking parental consent, which will be effective as of that date.

Q20. Can parental consent be retroactively granted or revoked?

A20. No. Parental consent is only active from the date of your signature forward. Revocation of parental consent is only active from the date of your written notice forward. You cannot grant or revoke parental consent for past dates.