



# The New York State Association of School Business Officials

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*Advancing the Business of Education*

January 17, 2018

Ronald Bass, Director  
Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Coverage  
Division of Program Development & Management  
NYS Department of Health  
Corning Tower  
Empire State Plaza,  
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Director Bass,

We appreciate your timely response to our letter of October 3, 2017 regarding the change in the process historically used by school districts to access student Medicaid Client Identification Number's (CIN) to submit Medicaid claims.

These claims are for all students new to school districts and or Medicaid. We have estimated that this year statewide at least 28,000 newly enrolled Medicaid eligible students will need to be matched, putting at risk at least \$30 million in Federal reimbursements.

School districts were informed in March 2017 that the State was pursuing a "systems project for a limited matching process". This process is urgently needed.

The Department's suggested methods for gaining CIN information were broad and comprehensive but so far have not generated the desired results. School districts are not allowed to collect social security numbers and parents are often not willing to share their child's CIN. For larger school districts implementation is difficult and time consuming. Attempts to work with local social services departments as suggested have also not produced the desired results to date.

Another approach may be to allow school districts to access the CIN information via the State's eMedNY ePACES on line eligibility request feature. An approved ePACES user can get additional information about the CIN if it is data entered or can obtain the CIN when the student's social security number and 4 pieces of demographic information is data entered (see attached screen shot of ePACES eligibility Request screen). Since school districts cannot collect social security numbers, the 2<sup>nd</sup> option as currently implemented is unusable. However, there

can be an interim solution if some modifications can be made to this ePACES screen by NYS specifically for school districts.

A school district can be identified by their NPI # and each user that has access to ePACES can be identified by their school district's NPI # (see upper left hand corner). Once the user has been identified belonging to a NYS school district, NYS should allow user access the CIN **without the required input of the social security number**; all other information can be inputted as required. It is understood that more than one name match may appear with the data entry of just this information, but like the CNYRIC eligibility process that was in place prior, the school district has the responsibility to choose the correct match.

Although this interim solution will be a manual process for the school districts, **this will give the school districts an interim workable/usable process to obtain the CIN** until the promised systems project can be completed. This will not only be a revenue "win" for the school districts but will also result in additional revenue for NYS .

Sincerely yours,



MICHAEL J. BORGES  
Executive Director

cc:

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner  
New York State Education Department