Children who are healthy and have access to the care and treatment they need are better able to enter school ready to learn and to remain engaged in the classroom. A strong Missouri Medicaid program ensures that low-income students in Missouri have the comprehensive, continuous health coverage they need to focus on learning.

Medicaid ensures that kids come to school healthy and ready to learn.

- Nearly 1 in 3 school age children in Missouri rely on Medicaid for health coverage,¹ making a strong Medicaid program key to ensuring children are healthy and ready to learn.
- In many Missouri school districts, particularly in rural and urban areas, well over half of all students are enrolled in Medicaid.²

Medicaid Coverage During Childhood Has Been Linked to:

- Higher High School & College Graduation Rates³
- Fewer Missed School Days ⁴
- Improved Kindergarten Readiness⁵
- Higher Reading Scores⁶

Medicaid also supports school infrastructure by providing funding for:⁷

- Health services needed to support students with special needs through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Screenings, diagnoses, and treatment services for students from low-wage families through the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment Benefits (EPSDT) benefit, including vision and hearing screenings, and diabetes and asthma diagnosis and management.
- Salaries of school staff such as school nurses and counselors who provide reimbursable services to students.
- Services provided through school-based health centers, including behavioral health services for students.
i. U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey (ACS), 2018 1-Year Estimates, Table B27007.


