

# Essential Program Components

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions about the CYBHI School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants, sourced from webinars, office hours, and emails.

## Multi-Payer School-Linked Fee Schedule

*Note: technical questions about the fee schedule and the implementation cohort process should be directed to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS): [DHCS.SBS@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DHCS.SBS@dhcs.ca.gov)*

### 1. What is the statewide Multi-Payer School-Linked Fee Schedule?

The statewide multi-payer school-linked fee schedule (fee schedule) is a new way to fund school-based behavioral health services for children and youth in California. The fee schedule establishes a specific set of behavioral health services and rates at which Medi-Cal and Commercial Insurance Plans are required to reimburse local education agencies, public institutions of higher education and other school-affiliated providers. Additional information about the fee schedule is available [here](#).

### 2. What are the billable services and eligible service providers under the fee schedule?

The billable services eligible under the fee schedule fall under four categories: psychoeducation, screening and assessments, therapy, and care coordination. Licensed mental health providers, Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credentialed practitioners, community-based organizations (CBOs), and behavioral health providers can bill under the fee schedule. Additional information about the fee schedule scope of services, codes, and reimbursement rates can be found using this [link](#).

### 3. What are the differences between the LEA BOP and the Fee Schedule?

The table below indicates some of the basic differences between LEA BOP and the fee schedule.

Features	LEA BOP	Fee Schedule
Reimbursement for mental health services	Yes	Yes
Reimbursement for physical health services	Yes	No
Reimbursement for Medi-Cal insured students	Yes	Yes
Reimbursement for commercially insured students	No	Yes
Authorized providers include PPS credentialed staff	Yes	Yes
Reimbursement for expanded behavioral health services including group therapy	No	Yes

#### **4. Which LEAs would benefit from the fee schedule?**

All LEAs can benefit from accessing the fee schedule. The fee schedule may be particularly beneficial for LEAs with certain needs or characteristics, which include:

- LEAs with low Medi-Cal eligibility and that currently have few options for reimbursement for student behavioral health services. These are districts with a student population with higher average income or lower free and reduced price meals eligibility.
- LEAs in communities with few youth behavioral health providers (the fee schedule can create an incentive to increase provider capacity).
- LEAs with existing grant-funded behavioral health programs, as the fee schedule may serve as a source of ongoing funds to maintain services when one-time funding expires.
- LEAs with high rates of mental health needs would benefit from the broader services covered under the fee schedule like group therapy and psychoeducation.
- LEAs that currently do not seek reimbursement from LEA BOP for behavioral health services would significantly benefit from the fee schedule as a way to expand services for students.

## **CYBHI School-Linked Partnerships and Capacity Grants**

#### **5. What are the CYBHI School-Linked Partnerships and Capacity Grants?**

The [School-Linked Partnerships and Capacity Grants](#) are a one-time investment enabling COEs and LEAs to build necessary infrastructure and partnerships to achieve a long-term and sustainable funding model for student behavioral health services. This funding aims to increase the number of LEAs who meet the fee schedule's operational requirements and expand access by increasing the availability, equity, and range of behavioral health services and growing service capacity and infrastructure.

#### **6. What entities are eligible to participate in the CYBHI School-Linked Partnerships and Capacity Grants?**

Grant funds are allocated to County Offices of Education (COEs), the California School for the Deaf, and the California Schools for the Blind. Each COE will determine, with input from local partners, the funding strategy and disseminate funding to LEAs, charter schools, community-based organizations and / or other implementing partners in the county.

COEs have the responsibility to define their allocations within their counties. Within this responsibility, COEs are expected to engage all Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter LEAs within their county.

The grant administrators understand there are a number of other potential eligible entities that a COE may partner with to build operational readiness for the fee schedule. All LEAs, including charter LEAs, should be included in discussions and implementation plans. Engagement may vary based on the local context. Additionally, eligible entities include but are not limited to individual Regional Occupational Programs (ROP), COE educational programs, and community-based partners serving public K-12 schools. Should any of these entities receive a direct allocation from

a COE, they must complete all deliverables including but not limited to, the baseline survey, implementation plan, progress reports, and final report.

## **7. How can COEs use the funds from the CYBHI School-Linked Partnerships and Capacity Grants?**

Grant funds are intended to support activities at the LEA and COE levels. It is up to each COE to determine their own LEA allocation strategy.

Seventy percent (70%) of the funds allocated should be used to achieve LEA operational readiness to implement the fee schedule. This can include work in the following four areas:

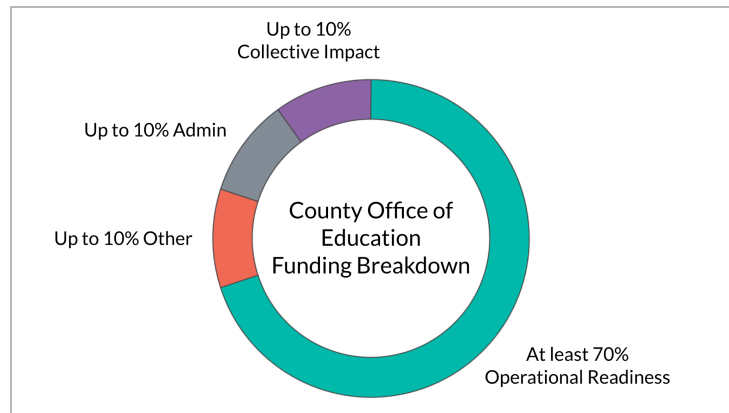
- Medi-Cal enrollment
- Service delivery infrastructure and capacity building
- Data collection and documentation
- Billing infrastructure

Up to 10% of funding can be used to offset any administrative costs. Another 10% of funding can be used to fund collective impact activities for greater alignment of priorities and efforts to support student behavioral health, and 10% can be dedicated to other expenditures that the COE deems necessary to build capacity and invest in infrastructure to provide behavioral health services and support to students.

COEs will be required to submit an implementation plan indicating how grant funds will be used, including amounts allocated to each LEA in the county. The implementation plan will be submitted for approval by the grant administrators and Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

The majority of the funding for this grant program is intended to go to Local Education Agencies (LEAs). As a part of the COE Implementation Plan process, COEs must provide rationale for LEA allocations. Should COEs have lower than 80% allocation overall to their LEAs, the Grant Administrator will require sufficient rationale for the COE role in LEA funding activities

For more information on the permissible uses of funding, please refer to the [School-Linked Partnerships and Capacity Grants Funding Guidance Overview](#).



**8. When COEs receive the capacity grant funding, will it be from DHCS or from the grant administrators (Sacramento and/or Santa Clara County Office of Education)?**

Funding will come from the Sacramento County Office of Education.

**9. Do the capacity grant funds need to be encumbered or spent by June 2026?**

Capacity grant funds need to be encumbered by 6/30/2025 and spent by 6/30/2026.

**10. Since the grant period began on March 1, are COEs able to charge staff time and investments for the capacity grants before signing an MOU with the Sacramento County Office of Education?**

The CYBHI School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants is a deliverables-based grant program. COEs will receive funding upon submitting deliverables. The MOU with SCOE is one of the deliverables that COEs must submit.

**11. Can capacity grant funds be allocated to a community-based organization?**

As an eligible entity, community-based organizations can receive capacity grant funds.

**12. What are the allocation augmentations for small and rural COEs and special schools?**

See [Table on allocation augmentations](#) for allocation augmentation for small and rural COEs and special schools.

**13. What are the grant deliverables and timeline?**

The table below provides an overall timeline for deliverables within the grant program.

Deliverable	% of allocation to be released upon deliverable submission	Deadline for Submission to SCOE
<b>Grant program begins: March 1, 2024</b>		
1. COE baseline survey	NA	May 10, 2024
2. LEA baseline survey	NA	August 1, 2024  *All LEA baseline surveys must be submitted by August 22, 2024.
3. MOU fully executed between COE and SCOE	50%	June 3, 2024
4. COE implementation plans submitted	40%	June 10 - September 10, 2024

5. LEA implementation plans submitted	NA	November 12, 2024
6. COE Progress Report 1 (covering work through December 31, 2024) and list of approved LEA Implementation Plans	NA	January 30, 2025
7. COE and LEA progress reports for Jan – June 2025	NA	July 31, 2025
8. COE and LEA progress reports for Jul – Dec 2025	10%	January 30, 2026
9. COE and LEA (final) progress reports for Jan – June 2026	NA	July 31, 2026
<b><i>Grant program ends: June 30, 2026</i></b>		

**14. Can COEs and LEAs update the COE and LEA baseline survey after the deadline?**

By design, baseline surveys cannot be updated after the deadline. The surveys capture readiness across COEs and LEAs ahead of the 2024-25 school year, and reviewing the baseline responses against an end-of-year survey will serve as a measure of how readiness changed over the year.

**15. What if a charter school or LEA is not listed in the LEA baseline survey drop down menu?**

The grant administrators will email all indicated points of contacts for COEs with a list of LEAs that are currently listed in Qualtrics, with a request for COEs to send edits and updates.