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Annual Written Notification
Accessing Public Benefits and Releasing Personally
Identifiable Information to the Georgia Medicaid Program

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Bryan County Schools receives funding from the Medicaid Children's Intervention School Services (CISS) Program for IEP covered services to Medicaid-eligible children through the State's Medicaid Agency. The Federal Special Education Law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004 (IDEA), specifies each State's obligation to develop agreements with non-educational public agencies to ensure that all services necessary to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) are provided to children with disabilities at no cost to the parent. This includes the Georgia Division of Medicaid. School districts are permitted to seek payment from public insurance programs (Medicaid) for some services provided at school.

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), your consent is required for the school system to release information about your child to the Georgia Department of Community of Health program in order to access your child's Medicaid benefits. You are entitled to have a copy of any information the school system releases to the Georgia Division of Medicaid Program.

If you have previously given consent for Bryan County Schools to access your child's Medicaid benefits and to release information needed to access Georgia Medicaid funding for services provided through your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), the school district may release:

- Your child's name, date of birth and social security number;
- Your child's IEP documentation including evaluations;
- The dates and times services are provided to your child at school;
- Reports of your child's progress, including therapist notes, progress notes and report cards.

You are not required to sign up for or enroll in Medicaid to receive IEP services or a free appropriate public education and if you refused consent to allow use of your Medicaid benefits to pay for special education services, the school district must still provide all required special education services at no cost to you.

The use of your Medicaid benefits for special education services will not decrease your available lifetime coverage, change eligibility, increase premiums or lead to the discontinuation of benefits. It will not result in your family paying for services required for your child outside of school that would otherwise be covered by the Medicaid program. In addition, you will not incur any out-of-pocket expense such as payment of a deductible or co-pay amount.

Your consent is voluntary and you may revoke it at any time. Revoking your parental consent doesn't change the school district's responsibility to provide your child with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and to provide all required IEP services on your child's IEP at no cost to you.

Please direct questions to Deborah Livingston, Special Education Secretary at 912-851-4014.