

School District Responses on Medicaid Fund Usage

Data from Georgia Budget & Policy Institute Electronic School District Survey – Last Updated 9/21/2017

Abbreviations Key

ABA=Applied Behavioral Analysis

ACE=Administrative Claiming for Education

CISS=Children's Intervention School Services

ESOL=English for Speakers of Other

Languages IDEA=Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act IEP=Individual Education Plan

OT=Occupational Therapy/Therapist

PT=Physical Therapy/Therapist

QBE=Quality Basic Education Funding

Formula RN=Registered Nurse

SLP=Speech Language Pathologist

SWD=Students With Disabilities

Districts Receiving Medicaid Funds

Appling County Schools

Reported receiving \$316,101 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To pay salaries and supplements for those filing medicaid."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "possible reduction in staff and elimination of supplements"

Bacon County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$149,327 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "District paid for nursing services and supplies. Assist in paying for related service therapy supplies and therapy testing materials. Assisted in paying for assistant technology. These funds assist in keeping the emergency medical equipment up to date (AED's)."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "All expenditures would fall back on the local budget."

Baker County Schools

Reported receiving \$31,798 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: " To pay SPED teacher for her services with head start and pre-k students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: " Our state and local funds would have to pay to provide those children with services."

Banks County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$38,781 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: " To offset special education contracted services."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We definitely would need to continue to provide these services and they would have to be covered from local funds."

Barrow County School System

Reported receiving \$316,957 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds were used to provide one-on-one nursing services, behavior therapy services, purchase equipment for students with physical needs and some web-based programs for supplemental supports for student with low cognitive abilities."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "If we did not have Medicaid funds, these services and equipment would have to come from federal IDEA funds, thus reducing the number of paraprofessionals that are able to support students with disabilities in the general education classroom who are paid for with IDEA funds."

Berrien County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$140,613 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Services to students for Occupational therapy, physical therapy and nursing supplies"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We wouldn't be able to provide mandated services to students with disabilities."

Bibb County School District

Reported receiving \$359,907 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To support our Special Needs students; particularly those with speech challenges."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would not be able to effectively serve as many students."

Bleckley County Schools

Did not report additional data.

Brantley County Schools

Reported receiving \$234,215 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To pay for contracted services (OT, PT, and Speech). nurse salaries and materials and supplies needed to meet student's needs"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Services for students would be drastically impacted for our small rural community and possibility of raising local taxes due to not wanting to cut jobs."

Brooks County Schools

Reported receiving \$244,252 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To provide our system's disabled students with additional quality services, such as: occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech language pathology."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Refinancing Medicaid would put our district under significant budgetary strains and would have adverse implications on our disabled students who need additional services funded with the Medicaid funds our district receives."

Bryan County School District

Did not report dollar amount received.

How district used Medicaid funds: "As a local funding source. Medicaid funds are not specifically tracked and budgeted by source."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Of our FY18 budgeted revenues, Medicaid funds are not a significant part of our local funds."

Bulloch County Schools

Reported receiving \$254,289 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We have full time RN's in each of our 15 schools."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Yes. We may not have the funds to keep all of our nurses at full time in each of our 15 schools."

Calhoun City Schools

Reported receiving \$91,679 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We use Medicaid funds to help supplement the cuts in IDEA funding by allowing purchases for materials, equipment and other needs of our students with disabilities. Medicaid funds are also used to address the needs for all at risk students. We have used Medicaid to fund remediation programs, universal screening tools, supplies and programs for economically disadvantaged and ESOL students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "It would vastly affect our ability to meet our at-risk and disabled learners needs."

Calhoun County Schools

Reported receiving \$31,520 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We use these funds to cover the expense of providing related services to students, such as OT, PT, audiological services, etc. They are also used to provide services to students covered by Section 504 who are not receiving services through the special education program. We are very frugal with these funds and only use them for services, supports and equipment that we cannot use our federal monies for."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "If these funds are eliminated, we will have difficulty providing these related services to students. Although we are required to provide these services, we do not receive Federal or State funding for them. They are funded solely by the Medicaid funds we receive. Elimination of these funds will also impact the provision of services to students covered by Section 504 since federal money cannot be used to provide the services, supports and equipment needed by these students. We are a very small, rural district with a very low local tax base. Our budget is so tight that we even had to institute furloughs for the upcoming school year. Loss of Medicaid funds would severely impede our district's ability to provide adequate services and supports for our students."

Camden County Schools

Reported receiving \$154,511 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "The funds are used to supplement services offered to students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Anytime grants are eliminated or reduced, it places additional expenditures on the general fund. In the event the general fund cannot sustain additional increase, the supplemental services would be eliminated or reduced."

Candler County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$59,141 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Funds were primarily used for contracted OT, PT, and ABA services. In addition, funds were utilized to pay Medicare filing fees."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Some of our services mentioned above may have to be reduced or eliminated if funding was not available."

Carroll County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$226,939 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds were used in a variety of ways. One important way funds are used is to purchase needed equipment and/or services for students served through a section 504 plan. We have purchased FM stations, technology hardware and software, busing services, additional books, and other needed equipment/services. We also provide ongoing professional development for personnel who are responsible for ensuring we are in compliance with 504 rules and regulations."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "There are no funds available outside of local funds for students who qualify for 504 services. Should we not have access to Medicaid funding, the services and equipment we provide would be of a lesser quality. Furthermore, personnel would not be able to participate in needed staff development in this area, making compliance with this unfunded mandate very difficult-if not impossible."

Charlton County Schools

Reported receiving \$21,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "fund special services"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "hurt the program we use to offset funding"

Cherokee County School District

Reported receiving \$802,459 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Revenue was recorded to the General Fund to reimburse the School District for services provided to Medicaid eligible students with disabilities."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "It would reduce the amount of funds available for every day expense, including salaries and benefits. Without reimbursement of expenditures from Medicaid, local property tax digest funds would have to be used to provide medical services to students with disabilities. Federal and state funds for SWD are intended to provide educational services to students; however, Cherokee County School District expends over \$1 Million annually on medical services, all of which would have to be paid with local funds if Medicaid reimbursement were reduced or eliminated."

Clarke County School District

Reported receiving \$87,557 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Payments to Medical providers"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "This cost would be covered by the General Fund"

Clayton County Public Schools

Reported receiving \$168,318 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds were used to purchase services and materials for direct instruction and support of instruction for students with disabilities. The acquired services and materials include: contract therapy services (e.g. speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy); testing materials (i.e. instruments, administration protocols) used to identify students' needs as well as to monitor progress; and equipment to provide alternate access to instruction (i.e. assistive technology devices)."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "If these funds were eliminated, instructional services and materials would be more limited. This would include less accurate information regarding students' eligibility for services, specific learning and therapy needs, and levels of progress. Additionally, there would be a negative impact to the number of assistive technology devices that would be available to support classroom instruction (where there are no IEP recommendations). Finally, elimination of these funds would result in a decrease in the number of therapists available to support students thereby increasing therapists' caseloads and student/therapist ratios. Ultimately, student achievement for students with disabilities will be negatively impacted."

Cobb County School District

Reported receiving \$1,260,384 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Funds were used in the District's general fund."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Loss of \$1.2 million to \$500,000 (estimated) annually"

Coffee County School System

Reported receiving \$385,500 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "The funds are used to help fund speech teachers, nurses, and therapist."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "This would impact the number of speech teachers, nurses and therapist that would be hired."

Cook County Schools

Reported receiving \$322,297 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We use these funds to pay our OT/PT and our SLP salaries"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "It would become a local burden and our kids would not be served as effectively as they are now."

Coweta County School System

Reported receiving \$445,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid reimbursements occur through the ACE and CISS program through the GA Department of Community Health. Reimbursements were placed in the general fund and used as reimbursement for salaries and benefits paid by our school district for services rendered."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "A portion of the operating expenses would have to be reduced to offset the elimination of funds."

Crisp County Schools

Reported receiving \$80,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We use these funds to pay the salary and benefits of extra personnel"

and for district newspaper advertisements."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "we would have to reduce the staff paid from these funds and find other funding for the newspapers advertisements."

Dade County Schools

Reported receiving \$61,829 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "For General fund obligations for instruction and intervention."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Dade County operates close to the budget due to years of funding cuts and loss of revenues. Elimination of the Medicaid funds would impact the services provided to our student populations and could bring about a need for an increase in millage rate."

Dalton Public Schools

Reported receiving \$167,658 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds supplement the payroll and contract costs of special education services - specifically speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and psychology."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "This would likely come from local funds - property tax dollars."

Dawson County Schools

Reported receiving \$106,874 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "**New software to track IEP's*Supplies*Offset expenditures that exceed state funding"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Eliminate programs or fund locally"

Decatur County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$317,000 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Pay for school nurses, occupational and physical therapy for special needs students and other services/ expenditures for special needs students not fully funded through QBE and IDEA."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Instead of having a nurse at each school may have to share nurses among schools and reduce services or reduce another program to fund these areas or possibly increase local property taxes."

Dodge County Schools

Reported receiving \$82,992 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "The funds were used to help supplement the salaries to pay for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy services for students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would be forced to reduce services."

Dooly County School District

Reported receiving \$59,022 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Salaries and payments for services provided, also general funding for district."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Could mean major cuts to critical personnel, provided services, and general funding source."

Dublin City Schools

Reported receiving \$77,224 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Funds were used to contract speech therapy services for students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Personnel would be eliminated."

Early County Schools

Reported receiving \$32,074 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We offset speech teacher salaries and supplements as well as assisted with funds for locally-funded nurses."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would possibly have to cut services that we currently offer."

Evans County Schools

Reported receiving \$27,277 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Fund school nurses"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would be extremely limited in providing medical support in a county that is already struggling with poverty and access to providers."

Forsyth County Schools

Reported receiving \$119,010 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "These funds used to help pay for Professional Services, such as Comprehensive Therapy OT, PT, & SLP"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would have to find the replacement funds locally."

Franklin County Schools

Did not report amount received for the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To provide services for Students with disabilities."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Many of the services would be decreased or removed."

Fulton County Schools

Reported receiving \$525,605 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To fund materials/supplies/current evaluations salaries of Speech & Language Pathologists, Occupational and Physical Therapists. Indirectly fund OT, PT, SLP positions at a level that results in manageable caseloads and aligns services for students in accordance with best practices in the field."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "This would result in higher caseloads which may result in 1) procedural errors related to testing timelines 2) negative impact on retention and recruitment of difficult to staff positions. Affect FCS' ability to provide FAPE due to lack of materials, supplies and current assessment tools."

Glynn County Schools

Reported receiving \$350,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To help cover the cost of our nursing program. We have an RN per school."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would have to use more local tax funds to cover the cost of our nursing program possible raise our Millage rate."

Grady County Schools

Reported receiving \$110,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "For Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Funds would be required from local taxes"

Habersham County School District

Reported receiving \$156,014 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "• To help pay for special education contracted services and teacher salaries"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "• Negatively. Additional local funds would have to be identified and redirected from other instructional program areas."

Henry County Schools

Reported receiving \$1,593,577 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To supplement revenue for the general fund to assist in all expenditure areas."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "No salary increases, possible furlough days, reduce staffing"

Houston County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$1,100,835 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Helped cover the additional costs associated with Special Need

Students such as OT/PT, speech, etc."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Would be forced to seek alternative local funds to help cover these expensive programs."

Jackson County Schools

Reported receiving \$190,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Support programs limited by other funds, especially early intervention for students served through Speech Language and those with Significant Development Delays."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "It would limit our ability to support SDD and speech language student services."

Jeff Davis County Schools

Reported receiving \$164,833 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To pay supplements to nurses and speech pathologist, purchase additional SPED equipment and supplies, OT and PT services, and pay the salary of the SPED secretary."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would not be able to provide all the services, supplements, and salary without putting a burden on local funding."

Jefferson City Schools

Reported receiving \$18,260 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Provides additional support to special education students (i.e. equipment, devices, materials...etc)."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Either we would do without the additional equipment or look at local funding initiatives."

Jenkins County Schools

Reported receiving \$12,947 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To fund therapy services"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Fewer therapy services"

Jones County School System

Reported receiving \$113,174 in the 2017 fiscal year.

Did not report additional details on Medicaid fund usage.

Lamar County Schools

Reported receiving \$103,983 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We used the Medicaid funds to service special needs students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "These services would still be required, and most likely contracted out and paid out of local funding which would be strenuous"

Laurens County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$239,698 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Funds were used to supplement the sped program."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "The district would supplement sped funds with general fund reserves."

Lee County Schools

Reported receiving \$223,441 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To offset the cost of nurses at each school. The total cost of nurse salary and benefits for the system is \$403,500.00 of which the state funds \$126,408.00."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would have to reconsider our ability to fund a nurse at each school."

Lincoln County School District

Reported receiving \$64,514 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To pay for physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech pathologist"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Our students' services would be reduced or we would have to eliminate a classroom teaching position"

Long County School District

Reported receiving \$18,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds are utilized for contracted supplemental services for Students with Disabilities."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Contracted supplemental services may have to be reduced."

Lowndes County School System

Reported receiving \$200,529 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To help defray nurses salaries and buy medical supplies"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Part of the nurses salaries would go unfunded as well as supplies"

Lumpkin County Schools

Reported receiving \$98,485 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds are placed in the general fund to pay for contracted and employee service providers as the total received will allow."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "It is unlikely that the system could provide needed services at the current level for our students without incurring debt that would have to come from other program reductions"

Madison County Schools

Reported receiving \$261,513 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To supplement special education expenditures."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Loss of personnel and instructional materials."

Marietta City Schools

Reported receiving \$219,788 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Initiatives for at-risk students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Loss of personnel and instructional materials."

Meriwether County School System

Reported receiving funds in the 2017 fiscal year, but did not provide additional data.

Monroe County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$144,602 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To help pay teacher salaries."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Local funds would have to cover those salaries."

Morgan County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$35,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To assist special education students with supplies, staff development travel."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Local funds would have to be used for staff development travel."

Murray County Public Schools

Reported receiving \$242,761 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Part-time wages for additional ESS staff, supplies software and equipment for ESS. Professional fees for assistance in Medicaid report completion."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Our ability to provide additional resources for ESS students would be reduced."

Newton County School System

Did not provide additional data.

Oconee County Schools

Reported receiving \$250,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Restructuring Medicaid to a per capita cap system will undermine our district's ability to provide our neediest children access to vital healthcare necessary to ensure they are able to succeed in school, early intervention programs and beyond. Medicaid is a cost-effective and efficient provider of essential health care services for children. School-based and early intervention Medicaid programs in particular serve as a lifeline to children who can't access critical healthcare and services outside of their program. Under this bill, the bulk of the costs for health care coverage would be shifted to the States even though health needs and costs of care for children will remain the same or increase. States and local communities will have to compensate for this federal disinvestment in our children's healthcare. If they cannot adequately make up the difference in federal funding, providers will be forced to cut eligibility, services, and benefits for children and youth. Critical supplies: Our district uses Medicaid reimbursement for critical supplies such as wheelchairs, therapeutic bicycles, hydraulic changing tables, walkers, lifts, and student-specific items that are necessary for each child to access curriculum as closely as possible to their peers without a disability. Replacing this equipment would be difficult if not impossible without Medicaid reimbursement.

Direct Services: Oconee County use Medicaid reimbursement to support the salaries and benefits of the staff performing eligible services. We use Medicaid funding to pay direct salaries for health professionals who provide services for children and youth. Cuts to Medicaid funding would impact program's ability to maintain employment for nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, social workers, psychologists, and many other critical personnel who ensure students with disabilities and other children and youth with a variety of educational needs are able to learn.

Schools and Early Intervention Programs Provide Critical Health Care for Children and Youth: A primary responsibility of schools and early intervention programs is to provide children and youth with a high-quality education. Children cannot learn to their fullest potential with unmet health needs. As such, specialized instructional support personnel regularly provide critical health services to ensure all children are ready to learn and able to thrive alongside their peers. Schools deliver services effectively and efficiently since schools and early intervention programs are where children spend their days. Increasing access to healthcare services through Medicaid improves health care as well as educational outcomes for children and youth. Providing health and wellness services for children and youth in poverty and services that benefit children and youth with disabilities ultimately enables more children to become employable and attend higher education. Programs would stand to lose much of their funding for Medicaid under the current proposal. Programs currently receive roughly \$4 billion in Medicaid reimbursements each year. Under the current proposal, States would no longer have to consider schools and early intervention programs as eligible Medicaid providers, leaving programs with the same obligation to provide services for children and youth with disabilities under IDEA, but no Medicaid dollars to provide medically-necessary services. Programs would be unable to provide EPSDT to children and youth. Instead, screenings and treatment currently provided in schools and early intervention settings would have to be delivered in physicians' offices, which may be less accessible for families or in hospital emergency rooms where costs are much higher. Basic health screenings for vision, hearing, and mental health would no longer be possible, making these issues more difficult to address and more expensive to

treat. Moving health screenings out of programs also reduces access to early identification and treatment, resulting in more costly treatment down the road.”

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "The Consequences of Medicaid Per Capita Caps Will Potentially Be Devastating for Children and Youth: Significant reductions to Medicaid spending could have devastating effects on children and youth, especially those with disabilities. Due to the underfunding of IDEA, programs rely on Medicaid reimbursements to ensure children and youth with disabilities have access to the supports and services they need to access a free appropriate public education, as required by federal law. Potential consequences of this critical loss of funds include: Fewer health services: Providing comprehensive physical and mental health services in programs improve accessibility for many children and youth, particularly in high needs and hard to serve areas such as rural and urban communities. In a 2017 survey of school district leaders, half indicated they have recently taken steps to increase Medicaid enrollment in their districts. Reduced funding for Medicaid would result in decreased access to critical healthcare for many children and youth. Cuts to general education: Cuts in Medicaid funding would require districts to divert funds from other educational programs to provide the services as required under IDEA. These funding reductions could result in program eliminations in other areas of the education system.

Job loss: Districts and early intervention programs use Medicaid reimbursement to support the salaries and benefits of the staff performing eligible services. We use Medicaid funding to pay direct salaries for health professionals who provide services for children and youth. Cuts to Medicaid funding would impact program's ability to maintain employment for nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, social workers, psychologists, and many other critical personnel who ensure students with disabilities and other children and youth with a variety of educational needs are able to learn.

Fewer critical supplies: Programs use Medicaid reimbursement for critical supplies such as wheelchairs, therapeutic bicycles, hydraulic changing tables, walkers, lifts, and student-specific items that are necessary for each child to access curriculum as closely as possible to their peers without a disability. Replacing this equipment would be difficult if not impossible without Medicaid reimbursement.

Fewer mental health supports: Seven out of ten students receiving mental health services receive these services at schools and early intervention programs. Cuts to Medicaid would further marginalize these critical services and leave children and youth without access to care.

Noncompliance with IDEA: Given the failure to commit federal resources to fully fund the IDEA, Medicaid reimbursement serves as a critical funding stream to help programs provide the specialized instructional supports children and youth with disabilities need to be educated with their peers.”

Paulding County School District

Reported receiving \$406,917 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds were used to provide necessary services to Special Education students. Expenditures included but are not limited to contracted nurses, psychologists, contracted speech therapists and occupational therapists. These services are evaluated and monitored through the student's IEP."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "If Medicaid funds were reduced or eliminated, the quality of the services provide to the Special Education students would be reduced. It would be difficult to achieve the goals set in the student's IEP and provide them the best care in their education."

Pierce County School District

Reported receiving \$92,514 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Medicaid funds are used to help fund expenses related to school nurses. Our Board of Education puts the health and safety of our students first. Due to the daily needs of most students and the significant health needs of many of our student the Board elected to provide a registered nurse in each school. The funding provided by the state is inadequate to provide nursing services at the level our Board believes is necessary. Medicaid funds are used to help offset the cost of additional RN level nursing staff."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "A reduction or elimination of these funds would have a negative impact on our students and our district. Potentially we might have to reduce the nursing services we provide for our students."

Putnam County Schools

Reported receiving \$150,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "The funds were used to pay for services for our special needs students that included but not limited to nursing services, interpreting services, deaf teacher services, and other specific needs of our students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Any time funds available to a district are reduced, an adjustment in expenditures or raise local taxes has to occur. In most cases those fund -specific expenditures or other alternative expenditures have to be eliminated."

Quitman County Board of Education

Reported receiving \$8,306 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Contracted services"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: " Services would have to be reduced."

Schley County Schools

Reported receiving \$22,953 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To reimburse OT, PT, Speech"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would have to take the money from other programs."

Social Circle City Schools

Reported receiving \$60,865 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Student instruction"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "The system would have \$60,000 less funds to pay for instructional function 1000."

Taylor County Schools

Reported receiving \$59,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We use the funds to help provide services for our Special Education Students."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We wouldn't be able to provide much needed services to our students."

Thomas County Schools

Reported receiving \$540,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "General fund revenues, not allocated to any specific purpose. The revenue is used to balance the budget; therefore, a portion of the Medicaid revenue is used to offset all general fund expenses."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Loss of funds would result in a local property tax increase."

Thomaston Upson Board of Education

Reported receiving \$145,852 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Thomaston-Upson Schools uses Medicaid funds to reimburse the district for additional expenses regarding speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other health or communication-based services for students. Medicaid funds are also used to provide supplements to retain highly qualified, effective Speech-Language Pathologists."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Reduction in Medicaid funding would significantly affect our district's ability to provide quality and intensive speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other health or communication-based services for students. Reduction or elimination would also hinder our district's ability to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining highly qualified, experienced, and effective SLP, OT, and PT therapists."

Thomasville City Schools

Reported receiving \$259,173 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To offset Special Education needs for students; clinic supplies"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would have to eliminate some of the supplies that we purchase for special education students to meet their physical needs. Additionally, our school-based clinics would have fewer supplies to serve students with medical needs"

Tift County Schools

Reported receiving \$400,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Nursing Services, PT, OT, Community Based Learning for SPED students"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "This would be very difficult for our district. We would have to fill these holes with general fund money and likely reduce some of our offerings to students in the areas mentioned above."

Toombs County Schools

Reported receiving \$123,880 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To help pay salaries of persons performing services."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would be able to provide less services to our students."

Treutlen County Schools

Reported receiving \$63,242 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "OT/PT Medicaid Reimbursement, Sp Ed Director's Salary - GAACE"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "We would have to pull funding from other sources which are extremely limited."

Troup County School District

Reported receiving \$500,000 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Personnel expenses, supplies"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Reduction of positions"

Turner County Schools

Reported receiving \$183,516 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "We used the funds to help pay salaries."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "It would definitely impact the number of employees which would impact the student to teacher ratio. It would also impact the services rendered to our students. We would not be in a position to offer as many services."

Union County Schools

Reported receiving \$39,766 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "To supplement Special Education services and supplies for students with disabilities."

Vidalia City Schools

Reported receiving \$50,000 in the 2018 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Offset other cost not fully funded by the State"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Potentially eliminating other budgetary items"

Walker County Schools

Reported receiving \$460,095 in the 2016 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "These funds flow into our general fund to help offset the high cost of special education and other instructional programs for all students. These funds help fill the gap left by reductions due to the amended formula adjustment."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "The district would need to consider cuts that we have utilized in the past when austerity was higher -- furlough days, reductions in staff, larger class sizes, etc. -- to offset the loss of revenue. An increase in the local millage rate would also be an option to offset this loss."

Walton County Schools

Reported receiving \$213,000 in the 2001 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "The Medicaid funds were placed in general operation budget. The general operating funds off set shortfalls to federal and state special education funds."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "The system would need to come up with the additional money to fund the programs listed above."

White County Schools

Reported receiving \$86,000 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Support students with disabilities"

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "Services would suffer"

Whitfield County Schools

Reported receiving \$363,079 in the 2017 fiscal year.

How district used Medicaid funds: "Our district used Medicaid funds to off-set the cost of employing speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists who provided services to eligible students with disabilities."

How district would be affected by reduction or elimination of Medicaid funds: "These are required services under the IDEA and we don't have a choice of whether or not to provide them so the cost would be passed along to the local school system (tax payers) and since we don't have a surplus of funding, other items would have to be cut from our budget."

Districts Not Receiving Medicaid Funds

Atlanta Independent School System

Bartow County Schools

Ben Hill County School District

Burke County Board of Education

Cartersville School System

Chattahoochee County Schools

Chattooga County Schools

Chickamauga City Schools

Columbia County School District

DeKalb County School District

Dougherty County School System

Fayette County School

Gordon County Schools

Gwinnett County Public Schools

Haralson County School District

Heard County Schools

Jasper County Schools

Jefferson County Schools

Johnson County Schools

Miller County Board of Education

Muscogee County School District

Oglethorpe County Schools

Pulaski County Schools

Richmond County Schools

Rockdale County Public Schools

Screven County Schools

Seminold County Schools

Steward County Schools

Taliaferro County Schools

Tattnall County Schools

Warren County Schools

Washington County Schools

Wilkinson County Schools

