



# The School-Based ACCESS Program



School-Based ACCESS Program

May 2008



**A 2006-2007 review for the  
Pennsylvania  
Department of Education**

*Presented by:*

**LEADER**  
SERVICES

# Program News

## Preserving Administrative Claiming and Special Transportation Reimbursement

Considerable progress has been made over the past year to prevent the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from pursuing the elimination of school-based Medicaid administrative claiming and special transportation reimbursement. Schools across the nation would feel the effects of the loss of these programs; it is estimated that Pennsylvania schools alone would lose over \$20 million annually.

Recently, House Bill H.R. 5613 was overwhelmingly passed by the House and is included in the Supplemental War Appropriations Legislation. The bill's intent is to continue a moratorium against the abolition of Medicaid reimbursement for these programs through March 31, 2009. What's more, as a new incoming president will take his/her seat in 2009 and new members of the House and Senate are being seated, it is expected that new legislation will be introduced to protect these vital programs and eliminate the threat of future action by CMS.

For the most current developments for this topic, visit [www.theleanet.com](http://www.theleanet.com)

## Parental Consent Requirement Continues to Impede Billing

School entities across Pennsylvania have been working diligently to meet the requirements of the 2004 reauthorization of IDEA. One of the requirements, which went into effect Oct. 13, 2006, involves obtaining written parental consent before billing through SBAP.

Ideally, school entities ask the parent to review and sign the parental consent form at the student's IEP meeting. However, this approach is not always successful because parents are not always able to attend the meetings, and in some cases IEP meetings are not required. Mailing the forms to students' homes is another option, but it has proven to be less successful than face-to-face meetings.

## SBAP Provider Manual to Introduce Program Changes

PDE and Leader are working with DPW to restructure the *SBAP Provider Manual*. During this process, DPW is clarifying certain program requirements that may impose additional responsibilities on school districts in complying with SBAP. Leader will keep clients posted on the progress of the updates.

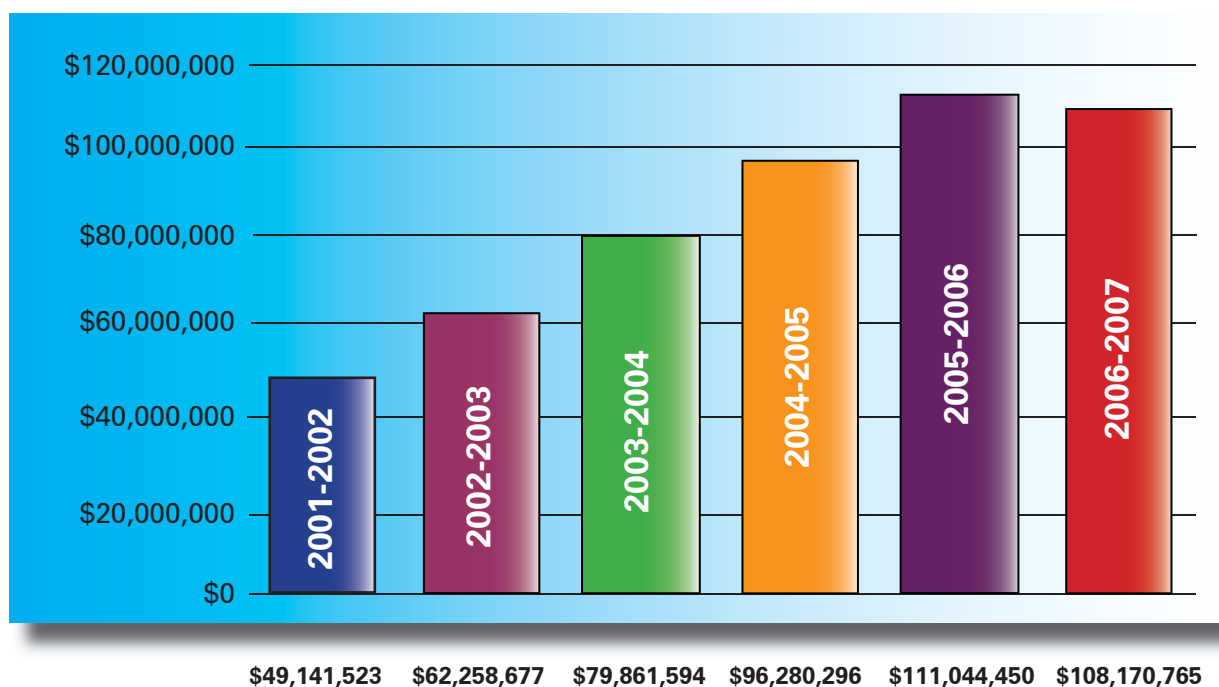
*SBAP is a cooperative initiative among PDE, the state Department of Public Welfare (DPW), the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and PDE's contractor, Leader Services.*

# Growth History

The graph below represents the dollar value of SBAP-recovered funds for the last six years. Progress is due in part to the continued support of PDE, DPW, and the efforts of participating school entities. The dollar value decreased slightly for the 2006/2007 school year, due to the recent regulatory change requiring school entities to obtain written parental consent prior to billing.

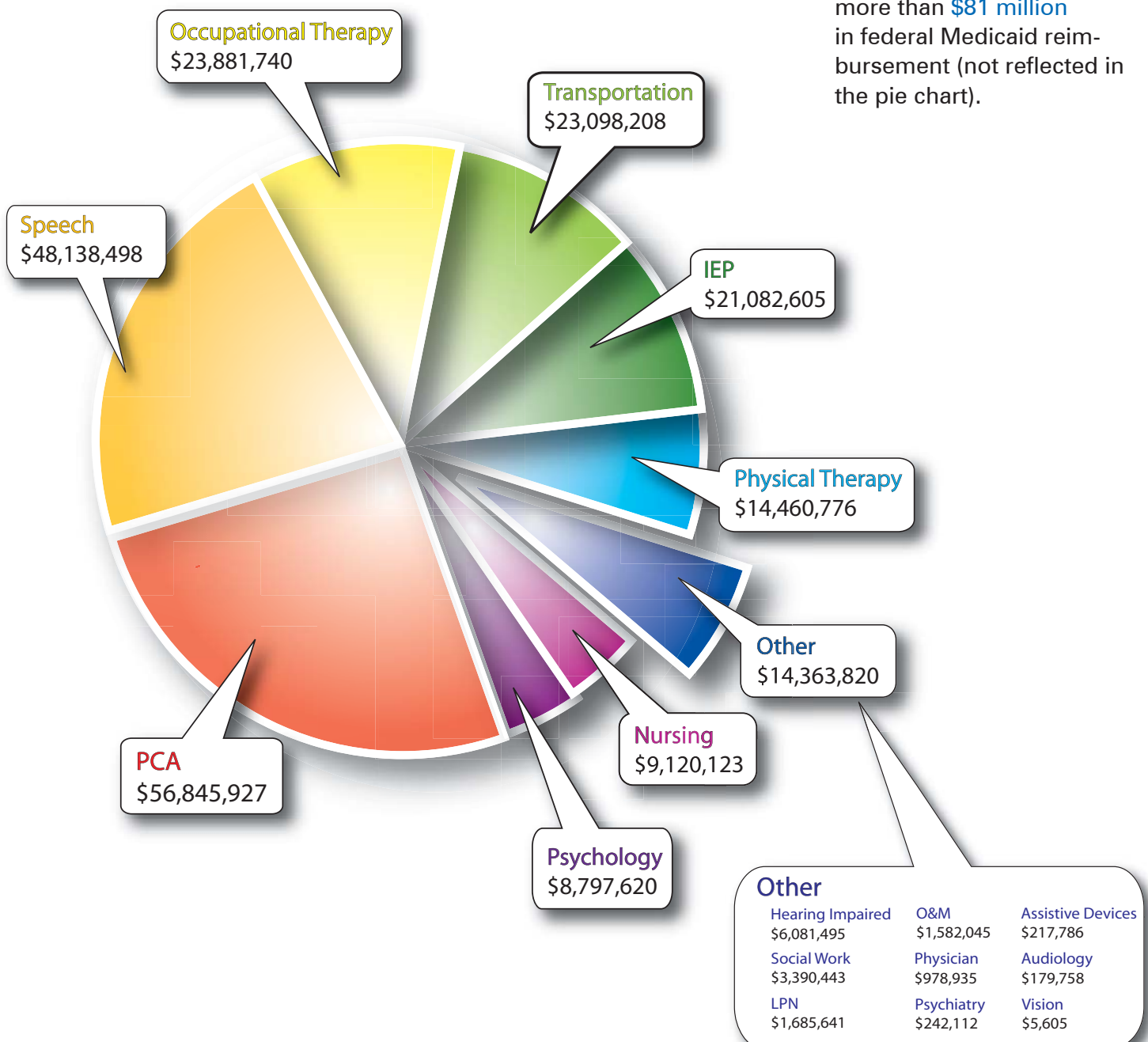
Most of the health-related services provided to special education students are included in the program. PDE, DPW, and Leader Services work collaboratively to enhance existing services, benefiting LEAs and taxpayers across the state. As PDE's program contractor, Leader educates SBAP providers concerning program operations, documentation requirements, and ongoing supportive administrative responsibilities.

From the program's inception in 1992 through June 2001, more than \$176 million was recovered through SBAP on behalf of LEAs across the Commonwealth. The chart below reflects funds recovered for 2001-02 through 2006-07 only.



# Services Distribution

The following chart illustrates the distribution of funds by service specialty. Figures are representative of the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years.



Since the inception of SBAP in 1992, school entities recovered more than **\$690 million** in federal Medicaid reimbursement.

Since the inception of the PA Administrative Time Study Program that same year, school entities recovered more than **\$81 million** in federal Medicaid reimbursement (not reflected in the pie chart).



# Top 10 School Entities

*The following school entities ranked in the Top 10 based on reimbursement received for the 2006-2007 school year (from July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007).*

## School Districts

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Altoona Area.....                  | \$1,404,701 |
| School District of Pittsburgh..... | \$1,206,707 |
| Downingtown Area.....              | \$772,018   |
| Spring-Ford Area.....              | \$765,756   |
| Pennridge.....                     | \$759,333   |
| Central Bucks.....                 | \$718,577   |
| North Penn.....                    | \$687,292   |
| Boyertown.....                     | \$680,777   |
| Hazleton.....                      | \$651,185   |
| Penn Hills.....                    | \$649,737   |

## Intermediate Units

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Philadelphia Area SD.....      | \$5,192,011 |
| Lincoln IU 12.....             | \$3,429,791 |
| Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13.....   | \$2,018,484 |
| Bucks County IU 22.....        | \$2,015,036 |
| Chester County IU 24.....      | \$1,537,728 |
| Allegheny IU 3.....            | \$1,326,744 |
| Luzerne IU 18.....             | \$1,279,770 |
| Carbon-Lehigh IU 21.....       | \$1,168,467 |
| Central Susquehanna IU 16..... | \$1,072,433 |
| Delaware County IU 25.....     | \$1,041,036 |

## Approved Private Schools

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Western PA School Blind.....        | \$785,956 |
| Children's Inst. of Pittsburgh..... | \$783,795 |
| Easter Seals of SE PA.....          | \$637,300 |
| Western PA School Deaf.....         | \$566,234 |
| Davidson School.....                | \$542,023 |
| Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center.....  | \$396,425 |
| Educ. Center at DT Watson.....      | \$386,750 |
| George Crothers Mem. School.....    | \$343,055 |
| The Melmark Home Inc.....           | \$342,006 |
| Depaul Institute.....               | \$311,037 |

## Early Intervention

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Elwyn Inc. - Philadelphia..... | \$2,518,256 |
| Delaware County IU 25.....     | \$1,196,470 |
| Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13.....   | \$1,179,273 |
| Bucks County IU 22.....        | \$1,045,361 |
| Montgomery County IU 23.....   | \$1,029,128 |
| Lincoln IU 12.....             | \$722,210   |
| Capital Area IU 15.....        | \$628,121   |
| Chester County IU 24.....      | \$594,444   |
| Berks County IU 14.....        | \$557,934   |
| Carbon-Lehigh IU 21.....       | \$557,845   |

## Charter Schools

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Philadelphia Academy.....        | \$240,625 |
| Chester Community.....           | \$193,456 |
| Avon Grove.....                  | \$124,265 |
| Mariana Bracetti Academy.....    | \$42,743  |
| Belmont.....                     | \$37,836  |
| Village CS of Chester.....       | \$29,897  |
| New Foundations.....             | \$26,243  |
| Spectrum.....                    | \$24,931  |
| First Philadelphia/Literacy..... | \$21,867  |
| Collegium.....                   | \$18,915  |

# Top 5 School Districts by student population

The following school districts (by student population) are recognized for ranking in the Top 5 based on reimbursement recovered for the 2006-2007 school year.

**Note:** School districts that ranked in the Top 10 (page 5) are not duplicated on this page.

| Over 8,000 students  |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Parkland SD          | \$589,315 |
| West Chester Area SD | \$575,433 |
| Butler Area SD       | \$560,039 |
| Upper Darby SD       | \$536,775 |
| Erie SD              | \$486,513 |

| 3,000-3,999 students |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Trinity Area SD      | \$432,694 |
| Hampton Township SD  | \$324,752 |
| Daniel Boone Area SD | \$305,924 |
| Muhlenberg SD        | \$249,370 |
| Berwick Area SD      | \$245,596 |

| 6,000-7,999 students |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Abington SD          | \$376,713 |
| Norristown Area SD   | \$361,951 |
| Lower Merion SD      | \$360,519 |
| Armstrong SD         | \$319,280 |
| Coatesville Area SD  | \$303,655 |

| 2,000-2,999 students    |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Sharon City SD          | \$325,499 |
| Punxsutawney Area SD    | \$286,163 |
| Philipsburg-Osceola SD  | \$282,640 |
| Northern Tioga SD       | \$269,327 |
| Springfield Township SD | \$267,494 |

| 5,000-5,999 students |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Williamsport Area SD | \$596,543 |
| Shaler Area SD       | \$321,471 |
| Wilson SD            | \$286,165 |
| Perkiomen Valley SD  | \$271,012 |
| Mount Lebanon SD     | \$262,503 |

| 1,000-1,999 students     |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Wilkinsburg Boro SD      | \$369,764 |
| Quaker Valley SD         | \$253,260 |
| Brookville Area SD       | \$231,050 |
| Big Beaver Falls Area SD | \$230,747 |
| Center Area SD           | \$229,039 |

| 4,000-4,999 students |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Owen J Roberts SD    | \$564,417 |
| Upper St Clair SD    | \$443,552 |
| Chester-Upland SD    | \$375,371 |
| Fox Chapel Area SD   | \$334,714 |
| Exeter Township SD   | \$333,968 |

| Fewer than 1,000 students |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| West Greene SD            | \$155,931 |
| Clairton City SD          | \$125,786 |
| Leechburg Area SD         | \$123,668 |
| Sullivan County SD        | \$97,400  |
| Harmony Area SD           | \$95,856  |

# Contact Information



## Leader Services Contacts

### **Gloria Grego**

Director, PA School-Based Services

**E-mail:** ggrego@leaderservices.com

### **George Schneider**

Executive Vice President

**E-mail:** gschneider@leaderservices.com

**Corporate Office:** 75 Kiwanis Blvd.  
West Hazleton, PA 18202

**Phone:** (570) 455-8511

**Toll-free:** (800) 360-8511

**Fax:** (570) 455-5945

## PDE Contacts

### **John J. Tommasini**

Director, Bureau of Special Education

**Phone:** (717) 783-6134

### **Tom M. Seben**

Chief, Division of Compliance Monitoring and Planning - West  
Bureau of Special Education

**Phone:** (717) 787-5745

**BSE Office:** 333 Market Street, 7th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

### **Roni Russell**

Education Consultant, Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance  
Network (PaTTAN)

**Phone:** (717) 541-4960 ext. 3314