



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill:** HB 82 - Maryland Medical Assistance and Children's Health Insurance Programs - School-Based Behavioral Health Services - Reimbursement

**Hearing Date:** February 14, 2023

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers supports (MASBHC) *House Bill 82 – Maryland Medical Assistance and Children’s Health Insurance Programs – School-Based Health Services – Reimbursement*. The bill establishes a framework for the State to seek federally reimbursement for certain behavioral health services provided in schools.

Maryland needs additional resources to support behavioral health services in schools. In *Advancing Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems*, the National Center for School Mental Health highlighted the need for flexible funding strategies including “leveraging funding and Medicaid reimbursement by developing relationships with other agencies.”<sup>i</sup> MASBHC supports moving forward to planning for implementation. We pledge our full resources to assist the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the local education agencies. Although we know there would be implementation challenges, the potential for federal matching funds would be a game-changer in supporting state efforts to expand behavioral health service in schools.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.schoolmentalhealth.org/media/SOM/Microsites/NCSMH/Documents/Bainum/Advancing-CSMHS\\_September-2019.pdf](https://www.schoolmentalhealth.org/media/SOM/Microsites/NCSMH/Documents/Bainum/Advancing-CSMHS_September-2019.pdf)