



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Tennessee School for the Blind is in the process of completing the Annual Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students through the American Printing House (APH) Federal Quota Program. This federally funded program provides textbooks, educational aids, and other learning materials for qualifying children with visual impairment and blindness.

In order to be included in the Federal Quota program, eligible students must be registered in an annual census, requiring the exchange of specific personally identifiable student information (PII). This information is only collected to meet the reporting obligations to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and other entities as required by law. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires your consent to release your child's personally identifiable information for these purposes.

The name(s) of your child(ren) will be registered, along with other pertinent information including birthdate, school district, grade placement, primary reading medium, and indication of visual function. All PII collected for this registration is confidential and will be protected from unauthorized access or use. Your child's PII will not be shared with any other entities or for any other purpose, unless permitted by state or federal law.

The Federal Quota Census Registration is completed under the supervision of the Ex Officio Trustee (EOT) designated to oversee his or her respective APH accounts. It is the responsibility of the EOT to submit accurate information to APH in a secure manner; therefore, the EOT determines the manner in which information is collected and subsequently sent to APH in Louisville, KY.

Your written consent is required in order to provide this information to APH. Consent to include your child in the Federal Quota Census allows the State of Tennessee to purchase products and materials from the APH on behalf of your child and other children in our state. You may choose not to provide your consent; however, doing so will mean that fewer Quota funds will be provided to the Tennessee School for the Blind.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Annual Federal Quota Registration Process, please contact:

Dr. Kathy Segers
APH Ex Officio Trustee for TN Department of Education and TSB
Tennessee Resource Center for the Visually Impaired
TN School for the Blind
115 Stewarts Ferry Pike Building 14
Nashville, TN 37214
615-231-7317
kathy.segers@tsbtigers.org

Description

This script is created with the intention of facilitating the conversation between school districts and parents when discussing Parent Consent, a document that is required by the TENNderCare program when seeking TennCare reimbursement. Based on your district's decision, this required document can print along with the student's IEP or exist as a standalone document on the student documents page. When discussing parental consent, the language below can guide the person responsible in providing clear and accurate information to the parents.

Script

- The district is participating in the TENNderCare program that allows the district to seek support from TennCare in the form of reimbursement of some services that your child receives.
- As a state and federal requirement of this program, the district is asking all parents to sign this document, allowing the district to release IEP information to the applicable TennCare Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and to your child's physician.
- The district does not necessarily know if you do or do not have TennCare and is asking for this permission regardless of TennCare eligibility.
- Please be assured by signing this document will not affect the services that your student receives outside of the school setting including any limits on your healthcare coverage.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is an MCO?

A: Tennessee contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to administer its TennCare program. BlueCross BlueShield, United Healthcare, and Amerigroup are all MCOs contracted with the state of Tennessee.

Q: What does PCG do with my child's information?

A: The school district has partnered with PCG to seek reimbursement for qualified services on behalf of the district. Upon signed Parental Authorization, this process includes IEP and related documentation as well as service logs being submitted to the MCOs for approval of claims. No information is shared without proper Parental Authorization (i.e. if the parent declines to participate, no information is shared).

Q: Why does the school district bill Medicaid for services provided to my child?

A: Medicaid billing for schools is authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act. _____ Schools is an authorized Medicaid provider. This allows the school system to recover partial reimbursement for services provided to Medicaid-eligible students in special education, such as speech and language services, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.

Q: Does participating in Medicaid affect my child's special education services or Medicaid benefits?

A: No. Allowing the school system to bill for these services will not affect or change the special education services a child receives. School Medicaid billing does not impact any Medicaid limits for services billed by a private provider.

Q: My child has private insurance and is not insured by Medicaid. Why should I give my consent to bill Medicaid?

A: Giving consent to bill Medicaid has NO impact to you, since you don't have any Medicaid benefits, but it does help the school system with the Medicaid billing process. Medicaid will only be billed if your child becomes Medicaid-eligible during the IEP time period.

Q: My child is insured by Medicaid. Why should I give my consent to bill?

A: Since your child is already insured by Medicaid, you have already given your consent to bill for healthcare services. Giving consent for the school system to bill Medicaid provides your child's school system with additional monies to make purchases and hire staff to enhance services provided to students with disabilities.

Q: If my child receives healthcare services such as speech therapy from a private provider, can he receive speech therapy from the school system also?

A: Yes. Parents are encouraged to seek services within the school system because therapeutic interventions that are set in natural environments and embedded in the instructional program increase the effectiveness of intervention and the achievement of IEP goals. Because Medicaid will only pay one provider per day for each service, PCG delays billing to ensure any private therapy is reimbursed first. Participating in this program will not affect the services your child receives in any way.



Notice of Access to Information

This Notice is to inform parents that the following information may be accessed in order for their child's school to provide special education or related services:

- Insurance or public benefits information of the parents, legal guardians and children, and
- The child's educational records, including their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and any personally identifiable or medical information contained in the child's educational records

Along with this Notice, you will receive a Release form. The Release form allows your child's school, TennCare, your child's health care providers and your child's TennCare managed care organization to release documents to each other containing educational records about your child. The following records may be disclosed:

1. Your child's Individual Educational Plan (IEP);
2. Medical and psychology records, including this type of information that is contained in your child's educational records; and
3. Educations reports, records or relevant test results contained in your child's educational records

Allowing these records to be shared like this will make it so that the people providing health care related services can talk with your child's school about your child and those services. In addition, allowing these records to be shared also makes it so that your child's school can verify whether your child is on TennCare so that the school can ask TennCare to pay for eligible school-based health services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. If you sign the release form, you will be giving consent for the records listed above to be released to the Department of Education school district, their billing agent(s), the insured's physician(s), and TennCare representatives as needed.

Note: You are not required to sign the Release form in order for your child to receive services in their IEP. Those services will still be provided to your child at no cost to you. If you do sign the Release form, you have the right to later withdraw or revoke your consent at any time by sending a letter to the Director of Special Education.

Neither TennCare nor the school:

- May require you to sign up or enroll your child in TennCare or any public benefits or insurance program so that your child can get a free appropriate public education;
- May require you to make an out-of-pocket payment of a deductible or a co-pay amount to file a claim for services
- May use your child's TennCare benefits if by doing so it would:
 - decrease your child's available lifetime coverage or other insured benefit, OR
 - make You pay for services that would otherwise be covered by TennCare or another program while your child is in school, OR
 - cost more or discontinue coverage for the program, OR
 - make your child miss out on home and community-based services because of the State's overall costs.

Division of Health Care Finance and Administration • Bureau of TennCare • TennCare Kids Connection

310 Great Circle Road • Nashville, Tennessee 37243 • Tel: 866-797-9469 • Fax: 615-532-7322 • tn.gov/hcfa



TennCare Bureau Publication No. 318313

Parents Right-to-Know

Teacher and Paraprofessional Provisions

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

The No child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, has strong provisions that support parents' right-to-know.

You have the right of request information regarding the professional qualifications of the students' classroom teachers and any paraprofessionals providing support to your child.

Pursuant to 1111 (h)(6)(A) of NCLB, you have the right to be informed:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status to which state qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Also, you have the right for timely notice if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

For further information, please contact TN Department of Education, Teacher Licensing web site: http://www.state.tn.us/education/lic_home.htm.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

(Keep for Your Files)

| | |
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| Main Number | (615) 231-7300 1-855-710-1881 |
| Dr. David Martin (Superintendent) | (615) 231-7310 |
| Dr. Tonja Dandy (Principal) | (615) 231-7331 |
| Dr. Alan Chase (Assistant Principal) | (615) 231-7319 |
| Dr. Kathy Segers (Dir. of Accessible Instructional Materials and Outreach Services) | (615) 231-7317 |
| Ms. Michelle Cormier (Dean of Students) | (615) 231-7365 |
| Ms. Kathy Craft (Clinic Supervisor) | (615) 231-7399 |
| Mr. Hyrm Sain (Elem/MS Guidance Counselor) | (615) 231-7335 |
| Ms. Kristi Dunning (HS Guidance Counselor) | (615) 231-7423 |
| Mr. Lamont Bassham (Residential Busing Supvr) | (615) 231-7402 |
| Security | (615) 231-7366 |