



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Hawaii State Department of Education Annual Report on Autism Spectrum
Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, a copy of the annual Autism Spectrum Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis report is being transmitted, pursuant to Act 205, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, as amended by Act 166, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SchoolDataAndReports/StateReports/Pages/Legislative-reports.aspx>

Should you have any questions, please contact Ken Kakesako, Director of the Policy, Innovation, Planning and Evaluation Branch, Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance, via email at ken.kakesako@k12.hi.us or by phone at (808) 282-3430.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

KTH:mpo
Attachment

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Hawaii State Public Library System
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance
Office of Student Support Services



State of Hawaii
Department of Education

Annual Report on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis

December 2023

Act 166, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, requires the Hawaii State Department of Education to provide an annual report on students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, students requiring applied behavior analysis, staffing updates, Medicaid reimbursement figures, and a licensure update.

Introduction

Act 166, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, amends the reporting period from quarterly to annually under Act 205, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018.

This report to the Legislature and the Hawaii State Board of Education is in accordance with the reporting requirements of Act 166, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.

1) The number of students eligible for special education and related services under the category of ASD who have an individualized education program

The number of students currently eligible for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services under the category of ASD is 2,428 students (Office of Special Education Program 2022 Child Count).

2) The number of students requiring applied behavior analysis

Within the Department, approximately 808 students receive ABA services as determined by their individualized education program (IEP) team, 612 are eligible for IDEA services under the ASD category.

3) Staffing updates and needs

New behavior analytic positions have been established throughout the Department. These include Behavior Technician, Behavior Analyst, and Behavior Analyst Teacher positions.

Department employees in Behavior Technician positions	105
Department employees in Behavior Analyst positions	9
Department employees in Behavior Analyst Teacher positions	19
Licensed psychologists doing ABA work	4
Contracted ABA Paraprofessionals/Registered Behavior (full-time and part-time) Technicians Credentialed under State ABA Contract	772
Licensed Behavior Analysts and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (full-time and part-time) Credentialed under State ABA Contract	123

4) Medicaid reimbursement schedules and amounts

Gross Medicaid Reimbursement Total by State Fiscal Year

FY	Direct Services Claiming	Administrative Claiming
2023	\$6,009,189.44	\$3,192,420.75
2024 (Through November 30, 2023)	\$2,177,724.94	\$5,331,278.87

The Department's School-Based Medicaid Claiming Program (SBMCP) continues to receive Medicaid reimbursement for direct services claiming for IEP-related nursing services. For the State Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, SBMCP received a gross Medicaid reimbursement of \$6,009,189.44 for nursing direct services claims. For the FY 2024 nursing direct services

claims, the SBMCP has received \$2,177,724.94 to date. In addition, the SBMCP has begun receiving Medicaid reimbursement for other Department-eligible related services costs through its administrative claiming.

The SBMCP continues to implement and expand its program initiatives towards full implementation of its mission to maximize Medicaid reimbursement for eligible SBMCP-related services and supporting administrative activities. These efforts continue to be supported through ongoing close collaboration with the Department of Human Services/Med-QUEST and other key SBMCP partners and stakeholders. One example of this collaboration is continued interdepartmental meetings between the Department and Med-QUEST that provide guidance and clarification for SBMCP efforts and initiatives. As a result, the Department has successfully progressed forward in its efforts to begin Medicaid billing for ABA services on several fronts.

The Department and Med-QUEST's joint efforts have resulted in the issuance of clarifying guidance regarding Medicaid coverage of services for children with autism spectrum disorder under section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act for the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit. This provides the necessary guidance that the Department will use for its ABA billing implementation plans.

Additionally, the Department is in the process of identifying an online management platform to support the delivery of applied behavior analysis that will help to streamline the Medicaid reimbursement process.

5) Licensure updates; and

ABA services continue to be provided by licensed professionals and those qualified to provide services under their supervision.

6) Any other information pertinent to the implementation of this Act

The Department currently has a statewide contract with 19 ABA provider agencies to ensure students have access to ABA services.