

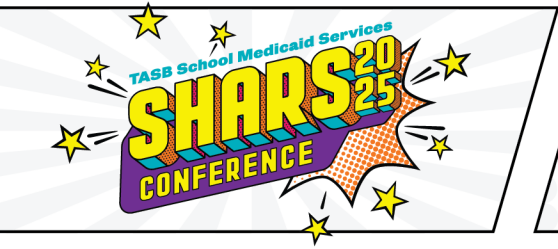


The SHARS Continuum

Reflect, Recharge, Reimagine

With Karlyn Keller, Ed.D.

TASB School Medicaid Solutions &



Reflect

The Origin Story (Federal Landscape)



What Brought Us Here

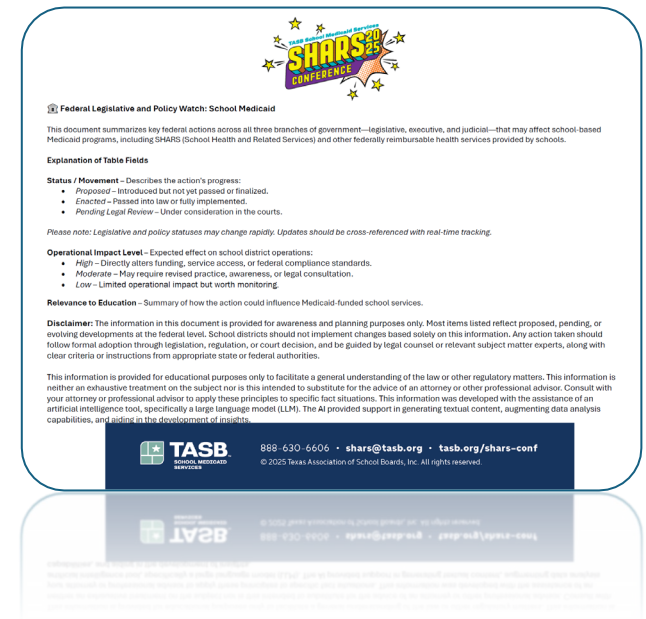
- **Mission Briefing:** Every hero has an origin story—so does SHARS.
- Federal audits and CMS oversight reshaped expectations
- National push for accountability and transparency in Medicaid
- Rising scrutiny on provider qualifications and documentation
- The SHARS foundation may change —remaining in the know is essential



Federal Landscape in Motion

Evolving Federal Landscape

- FY2026 proposal includes potential changes to Medicaid funding
- Ongoing legal reviews may inform future Medicaid guidance
- CMS continues to support expanded coverage models in several states, changes may be seen in the future





In the News



**Tax breaks, wall money, spending cuts,
Medicaid**

POLITICOPRO

Cornyn, GOP eye Medicaid reform

The New York Times

***Medicaid May Face Big Cuts and
Work Requirements***

Republicans in Congress are eyeing cuts to Medicaid, which could threaten health coverage for tens of millions of poor Americans.

The Washington Post

**Trump allies eye overhauling Medicaid,
food stamps in tax legislation**

Republican leaders, looking for ways to offset the cost of lower taxes, are considering changes to safety net programs for the poor.

HUFFPOST

**Health Insurance For Millions Is Now
Officially At Stake — Again**

Why It's Always About Medicaid

**1 big thing: Republicans eye Medicaid
overhaul** **AXIOS**



Potential Changes in Funding

- Block grants
- Per capita caps
- Elimination or reduction of expansion matching rate (FMAP)
- Elimination or reduction of minimum matching rate (FMAP)
- Elimination or restriction of state use of provider taxes (state share of cost of Medicaid)
- Shared approach: make large Medicaid cost-shifts to states



Federal Considerations for SHARS

Current Federal Context for SHARS

- Short-term federal funding decisions are maintaining continuity
- National initiatives continue to support school-based services
- Texas and other states remain engaged as developments unfold



Common Questions from the Field

- Could the program be discontinued at the federal level?
 - SHARS is part of a broader Medicaid framework with long-standing roots; current federal actions are focused on refinement, not removal.
- TASB continues to monitor changes, provide support, and advocate for long-term sustainability.



Recharge

The Current Mission (Texas Today)



Where We Stand

- **Mission Briefing:** Recenter your strategy around collaboration, clarity, and Texas-based solutions.
- HHSC policy updates and TEA alignment still evolving
- New challenges in staffing, compliance, and timelines
- Increased district questions around burden and process
- TASB and districts gathering strength through collaboration and advocacy



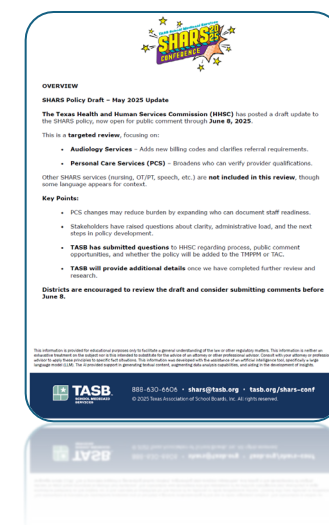
Texas in Action

- HHSC and TEA continue to refine SHARS guidance and roles
- State-level adjustments are supporting implementation and clarity
- Districts are engaging in discussions to align services and documentation
- Collaboration remains key as we navigate updates together
- Cost Reports for FFY 2022 and 2023 are still in motion
- Cost Report data disaggregation for FFY 2024 has not been released by HHSC as reviews are still in motion
- HHSC is reviewing the Local Fund (LF) desk audit process for the upcoming year



SHARS Policy Review in Progress

- HHSC released a draft SHARS policy update—open for comment through June 8, 2025
- Focused on **Audiology** and **Personal Care Services (PCS)**
- Other SHARS services are not changing but are included for reference
- Now is the time for districts to **review and provide feedback**
- Highlights:
 - Audiology – New billing codes and clearer referral guidance
 - PCS – Broader range of professionals can verify staff qualifications





Supporting Review and Engagement

- TASB has submitted **questions to HHSC** about:
 - Opportunities for public input
 - Next steps after the comment period
 - How the policy may be incorporated (TMPPM, TAC, or both)
- TASB will share updates **following further review**
- We are exploring the **draft's clarity, impact, and path forward**



- Multiple bills introduced that could affect SHARS roles, funding, and oversight
- Some focus on strengthening program integrity and clarifying agency responsibilities
- Others expand service eligibility, stakeholder input, or related funding streams
- TASB continues to monitor and engage on high-impact legislation

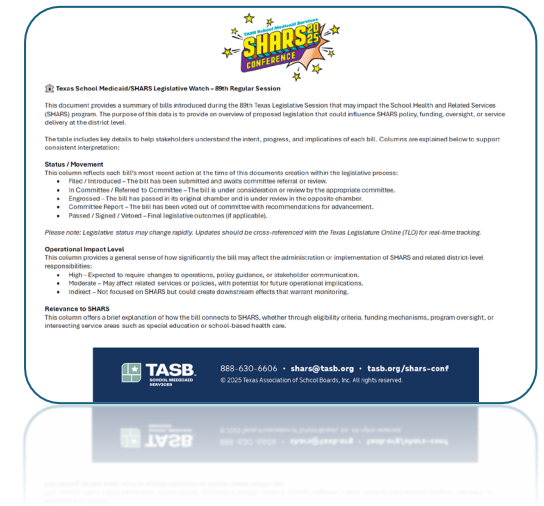


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SERVICES



Texas SHARS Legislation – Bills Gaining Momentum

- SB 1952 (Paxton) – Engrossed in Senate
 - Clarifies HHSC as lead agency for SHARS
 - Establishes TEA and ESC roles
 - Reinforces historical governance structure
- HB 500 (Bonnen) – Passed House Committee
 - Appropriates \$934 million in SHARS-related supplemental funds via TEA
 - Section 3.02 supports districts impacted by prior disallowances
- HB 5262 (González, Mary) – Introduced
 - Establishes a SHARS Program Advisory Council
 - Provides a formal channel for stakeholder input on SHARS policy and implementation
- TASB is actively monitoring progress and advocating for school district involvement and support.



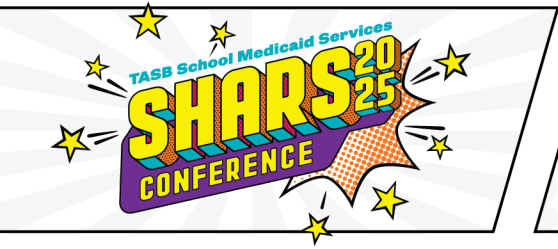


TASB remains committed to helping districts navigate change, reduce burden, and find clarity—while working to keep SHARS sustainable and effective for Texas students through ongoing support and advocacy.



Common Questions from the Field

- Is participation still worth it as expectations shift?
 - Many districts continue to see value through careful alignment of staffing, systems, and support.
 - TASB we have another Return on Investment webinar during the summer for those interested. Email shars@tasb.org for more info.
- What is the status of allowability of seatbelts on the bus?
 - There are two sides to this question. HHSC indicated to us earlier this year they are allowable as long as they are not on all buses. Federal guidance indicates simple seatbelts are unallowable. Email us for more.
- TASB continues to monitor changes, provide support, and advocate for long-term sustainability.



Reimagine

The Future Battle Plan (Next Steps)



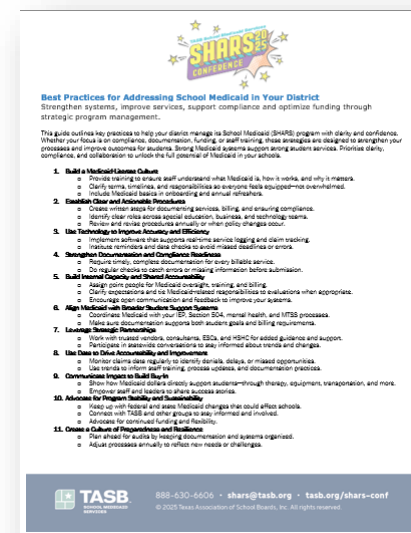
What's Next

- **Mission Briefing:** Reimagine the future to prepare for what's next.
- Strengthen systems: focus on sustainable SHARS practices
- Innovate with documentation tools, training, and roles
- Prepare for potential federal and state-level shifts
- TASB will continue to support and advocate—our mission isn't over



Best Practices for Addressing School Medicaid

1. Build a Medicaid-Literate Culture
2. Establish Clear and Actionable Procedures
3. Use Technology to Improve Accuracy and Efficiency
4. Strengthen Documentation and Compliance Readiness
5. Build Internal Capacity and Shared Accountability
6. Align Medicaid with Broader Student Support Systems
7. Leverage Strategic Partnerships
8. Use Data to Drive Accountability and Improvement
9. Communicate Impact to Build Buy-In
10. Advocate for Program Stability and Sustainability
11. Create a Culture of Preparedness and Resilience





Reimagine in Action – What Matters Most

- **Stay Future-Ready**
Understand the evolving landscape—from federal proposals to state policy—to support thoughtful planning, not reactive shifts.
- **Strengthen What Works**
Invest in procedures, training, and documentation that improve both compliance and student outcomes.
- **Use Data as a Leadership Tool**
Track trends, analyze claims, and use insights to drive smart decisions at the district level.
- **Invest in Your Team**
Build a Medicaid-literate culture so that staff feel informed and capable—not overwhelmed.



Reimagine in Action – What's Next

- Review the Draft Policy

The HHSC SHARS update is open for public comment through June 8. Consider reviewing and submitting feedback.

- Engage in the Bigger Picture

Follow legislative developments, monitor guidance changes, and share your voice through advocacy and participation.

- Connect and Collaborate

Keep working with TASB, peers, and partners—SHARS is a shared effort, and your insights matter.

The mission continues. Let's reimagine what's possible—together.



Resources

- [Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming](#)
- [Healthy Students, Promising Futures](#)
- [Medicaid Information Toolkit | AASA](#)