



# County of San Diego

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Dear School Administrator,

SchoolLink formerly known as Medi-Cal services is the longstanding partnership between the County of San Diego and local School Districts to provide County funded behavioral health services at schools. This partnership dates back to late 1990's, where the Health and Human Services Agency - Behavioral Health Services (County) partnered with School Districts and Community-Based Organizations (CBO) to offer outpatient Specialty Mental Health and later Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment on designated school campuses to serve Medi-Cal and unfunded students. In 2018 SchoolLink was launched to implement standardized practices and increase collaboration between schools and treatment providers. SchoolLink standardizes practices and gets us all speaking the same language!

Over the past year, the County has been reviewing SchoolLink data which reveals that although over 400 schools are designated SchoolLink sites, the majority had 3 or less students receiving SchoolLink services. This data, combined with school and provider input, informed the need to re-evaluate our practices and prioritize services where they are needed. To start, we have set minimum client thresholds to warrant the deployment of therapists through SchoolLink. The implementation of thresholds is intended to be a collaborative process between schools, districts, SchoolLink providers and the County. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure resources are optimally deployed so that students receive the services they need in a timely and efficient manner.

As we work collectively to optimize SchoolLink services, initial transition year thresholds have been identified for the 2019/2020 school year. Achieving the thresholds will require commitment and collaboration between schools and SchoolLink providers. We understand that not all schools will be meeting the thresholds initially, however having a goal will lead to important conversations and process improvements.

### **Minimum SchoolLink Thresholds:**

SchoolLink providers are committed to deploy a therapist to each designated school at least weekly and be on campus for a minimum of four hours per visit.

### **Schools are asked to commit to the following:**

- Identify a consistent designated place for therapist(s) on each of their assigned day(s) and time(s)
- Make sufficient referrals that lead to a minimum of 5 active clients served by SchoolLink provider
- Make sufficient referrals that lead to a minimum of 10 annual clients served by SchoolLink provider

Medi-Cal enrolled and unfunded students who have mental health and/or SUD treatment needs who attend a school that does not offer SchoolLink services may continue to access services throughout the

community-based County funded programs. The Access and Crisis Line number (888-724-7240) can provide referrals to applicable resources.

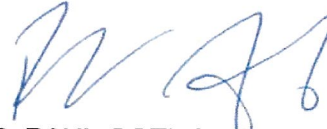
Thank you for your dedication and collaboration over the years. For additional information please contact Yael Koenig, Deputy Director with BHS at (619) 563-2773 or [Yael.Koenig@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Yael.Koenig@sdcounty.ca.gov). We look forward to our continued partnership.

SchoolLink can be located at: <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/bheta-schoolink>.

**Please distribute this information throughout your district.**



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Behavioral Health Services



DR. PAUL GOTHOLD, Superintendent  
San Diego County Office of Education

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