

Medicaid Learning Collaborative – Cohort I

About ROI

ROI supports youth, organizations, and communities in rural North Carolina to interrupt the cycle of generational trauma and design innovative solutions for healing & resilience.

About the MLC

The Medicaid Learning Collaborative (MLC) is a cohort of North Carolina public and charter schools receiving free technical assistance to navigate the Medicaid reimbursement process for school-based mental health services. The first cohort operated during the 2024-25 school year and included nine schools.

Our cohort members benefitted from:

- **Increased Financial Resources:** Accessing new funding streams to hire more mental health professionals.
- **Expert Guidance:** Joining a learning community with monthly sessions led by national experts.
- **Tailored Approach:** Receiving weekly follow-ups from our team to ensure the program fits their school's needs.

Cohort members were divided into low-touch and high-touch groups. The five high-touch districts situated within the funder's catchment area received more intensive and sustained engagement than their four low-touch counterparts, likely contributing to their greater progress in Medicaid billing and service expansion. While their gains were more modest relative to high-touch districts, the low-touch cohort demonstrated meaningful progress in expanding access to mental health services and preparing to leverage Medicaid reimbursement.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

High-touch school districts saw a **3x increase in students receiving mental health support** from the 2023-24 school year.

- During the 2024-25 school year, a median of 129 students in high-touch school districts and a median of 42 students in low-touch school districts were provided with mental health support.

100% of high-touch school districts saw an **increase in confidence completing the Random Moment Time Study.**

- Confidence increased in each of the ten Medicaid program processes from baseline to end-of-year for both high and low-touch districts, but more strongly for high-touch districts.
- High-touch districts improved their implementation of every Medicaid program process possible—most notably in responding to the Random Moment Time Study, with an increase from 50% at baseline to 89% at end-of-year.

100% of high-touch schools perceived **“some” or “major” impact on student well-being**, with **75% reporting “major” impact.**

- Many schools noted anecdotal impact on student well-being, attendance, disciplinary incidents, and academic performance.

SUPPORTERS