

SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS

Recommendation

Pass Seizure Safe Schools legislation to ensure that schools are well-equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

BACKGROUND

The legislation makes certain that school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to the student experiencing a seizure. Even more importantly, the legislation safeguards physician-directed care in the school setting allowing students to access necessary and oftentimes life-saving medication. Lastly, by bringing awareness to the entire educational community, students living with epilepsy or a seizure disorder can feel safe in school, reach their full academic potential, and build meaningful friendships without fear of being stigmatized.

The model bill has five key components: requiring school personnel to complete a seizure recognition and first-aid response training; mandating that the Seizure Action Plan is made part of the student's file and made available for school personnel and volunteers responsible for the student; ensuring that any FDA-approved medication prescribed by the treating physician is administered to the student living with epilepsy; educating and training students about epilepsy and first-aid response; and a Good Samaritan clause.

ABOUT THE EPILEPSIES

Epilepsy is a disease or disorder of the brain which causes reoccurring seizures. It is a spectrum disease comprised of many diagnoses including an ever-growing number of rare epilepsies. There are many different types of seizures and varying levels of seizure control. Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the country. Approximately 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

12 states

have passed seizure safe schools legislation as of May 2021 (AL, CO, IL, IN, KY, MN, NE, NJ, OK, TX, VA, WA)

470,000

children living with epilepsy in the United States¹

11 or more days

of school missed in the past year on average for students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy²

48.2%

on average, of lead health education teachers in secondary schools wanted professional development on epilepsy or seizures³

23.4%

on average, of lead health education teachers in secondary schools received professional development on epilepsy or seizures⁴

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2018/CDC-Profiles-2018.pdf>

⁴ *ibid*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

ABBEY ROUDEBUSH Senior Manager, Government Relations & Advocacy, Epilepsy Foundation | 301.918.3784
aroudebush@efa.org