

# 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.

**19 states**

have passed seizure safe schools legislation to date (AL, AZ, CA, CO, FL, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MN, MO, NE, NJ, OK, TX, UT, VA, WA)

**13,600**

children living with epilepsy in Michigan<sup>1</sup>

**11 or more days**

of school missed in the past year on average for students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy<sup>2</sup>

**4,204**

students per school nurse in Michigan<sup>3</sup>

**17.2%** of lead health education teachers in Michigan secondary schools received professional development on epilepsy or seizures<sup>4</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nea.org/home/35691.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2018/CDC-Profiles-2018.pdf>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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