



**State Board of Education Resolution  
On Recommendations Related to Seizure Safe Schools  
SR23-6**

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy is a disease or disorder of the brain which causes reoccurring seizures and is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy is highly misunderstood by the general public;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), an estimated 3.4 million people in the United States are living with epilepsy and of these, 470,000 children under the age of 14—or one in 150 children—have been diagnosed with the disease<sup>12</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Epilepsy Foundation, there are over 75,000 people living with epilepsy in Washington, D.C., although there is currently a lack of publicly available information regarding this segment of the population<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, a student from Ward 6 described his experience living with epilepsy to the D.C. State Board of Education (State Board) and raised concern for educators who likely did not receive formal training on responding to students suffering from seizures, administering medication, or better understanding the disease and those impacted by it;

**WHEREAS**, the State Board heard from two (2) public witnesses at the May 17 Public Meeting who provided testimony urging for seizure safe school legislation to be passed in D.C.;

**WHEREAS**, the State Board’s School Community and Wellbeing Committee is leading efforts to work with the D.C. Council to draft and pass seizure safe school legislation;

**WHEREAS**, the State Board commends the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) for recognizing student health as foundational to student learning and academic success;

**WHEREAS**, the State Board recommends that students in Washington, D.C. who are living with epilepsy and seizure disorders should attend schools that are well-equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment, including school personnel who are prepared and able to recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to a student experiencing

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Disease Control. (n.d.). *Epilepsy Data and Statistics*. <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>  
<sup>2</sup> CURE Epilepsy. (n.d.). *What is Epilepsy?* [https://www.cureepilepsy.org/for-patients/understanding/basics/what-is-epilepsy/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=understanding\\_epilepsy&utm\\_campaign=1033990312&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_content=333163854902&utm\\_term=epilepsy%20symptoms&adgroupid=53543283751](https://www.cureepilepsy.org/for-patients/understanding/basics/what-is-epilepsy/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=understanding_epilepsy&utm_campaign=1033990312&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_content=333163854902&utm_term=epilepsy%20symptoms&adgroupid=53543283751)  
<sup>3</sup> Epilepsy Foundation. (n.d.) *Epilepsy Foundation Metro Washington DC*. <https://www.epilepsy.com/local/epilepsy-foundation-metro-dc>





a seizure; and


WHEREAS, the State Board looks forward to working with the D.C. Council to develop legislation on seizure safe schools, ensuring the incorporation of five (5) key components<sup>4</sup> recommended by the Epilepsy Foundation:

1. mandating seizure recognition and first-aid response training for all staff<sup>5</sup>;
2. 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;
3. ensuring that any FDA-approved medication prescribed by the treating physician is administered to the student living with epilepsy;
4. educating and training students about epilepsy and first-aid response; and
5. including a Good Samaritan clause.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the D.C. State Board of Education recommends D.C. Council pass legislation on seizure safe schools, incorporating all five (5) key components listed above; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, D.C. Health, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), and public schools in D.C. should be given the resources and capacity to improve their collection and publishing of data identifying the number of students living with epilepsy, the number of educators trained in seizure safety, and the number of trained nurses available at each school—during school hours and out-of-school time—who can administer seizure medication (and other rescue medications such as EpiPens and inhalers).

Date Adopted: June 21, 2023

Signed:   
Eboni-Rose Thompson, President

<sup>4</sup> As outlined in the Epilepsy Foundation’s Seizure Safe Schools resource found at [https://www.epilepsy.com/sites/default/files/2022-10/Seizure\\_Safe\\_Schools\\_Position\\_Statement\\_October2022.pdf](https://www.epilepsy.com/sites/default/files/2022-10/Seizure_Safe_Schools_Position_Statement_October2022.pdf).  
<sup>5</sup> This language has been updated by the State Board to be more specific.

