

MARYLAND – BRYNLEIGH’S ACT (SB 299/HB 136)

- 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 4th most common neurological disorder in the U.S. and affects people of all ages throughout the lifespan.
- Approximately 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.
- About 1 in 10 people will have a seizure at some point in their life.¹
- Over 3.4 million Americans are currently living with epilepsy and seizures.²
- Of the 3.4 million, 470,000 are children and teens living with epilepsy.³
- Approximately 336,000 kids in the U.S. have at least one seizure annually.⁴
- Approximately 7,900 children and teens live with active epilepsy in Maryland.⁵
- There are approximately 913 students per 1 school nurse in Maryland.⁶
- 11 or more days of school missed in the past year, on average, for students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy.⁷
- It is imperative that those charged with the care of children living with epilepsy and seizures have the tools and resources necessary to be able to recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to any student experiencing a seizure.
- To date, 12 states – Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Alabama, Colorado, and Minnesota – have successfully passed Seizure Safe Schools legislation.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/communications/features/5things.htm>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>

⁴ Cui W, Kobau R, Zack MM, Helmers S, Marshaly Y, Yeargin-Allsopp M. Seizures in children and adolescents aged 6–17 years – United States, 2010–2014. MMWR. 2015;64(43):1209-14.

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>

⁶ https://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/healthandwellness/download/nurnasn_ruler.pdf

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm>

- *Brynleigh's Act* (SB 299/HB 136) would greatly improve the care and safety of students with epilepsy and seizures in schools by:
 - Safeguarding physician-directed care by requiring at least two school personnel to meet training requirements necessary to administer or assist with the self-administration of FDA-approved seizure rescue medications, prescribed medication, and manual vagus nerve stimulator;
 - Requiring all school personnel to undergo an approved seizure recognition and first-aid training on a biennial basis;
 - Ensuring that a seizure action plan is on file for each student with a seizure disorder; and
 - Including a Good Samaritan Clause for those who act in good faith in accordance with the bill's provisions.

TRAININGS

- All Seizure Safe Schools Courses can be viewed [here](#).
- The [training for school nurses](#) is available from the Epilepsy Foundation for FREE, either on-demand (online) or through a live instructor-led webinar, is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, a certificate is provided upon completion, and 2.75 CNE continuing education credits are offered.
- The [training for school personnel](#) is available from the Epilepsy Foundation for FREE, either on-demand (online) or a live instructor-led webinar. Time to complete the course varies by user and is estimated to be 50-75 minutes. A certificate is provided upon completion, and continuing education credits are available for certified health education credits (up to 1.5 CHES/MCHES).
- The [Seizure Training for School Nurses: Using Rescue Therapies in Epilepsy Care](#) is available from the Epilepsy Foundation for FREE on-demand (online) and is approximately 75 minutes, a certificate is provided upon completion, and 1.25 CNE continuing education credits are offered. The course is intended for school nurses, but anyone can take the course to learn about epilepsy.