

Accommodating Students with Seizure Disorders or Epilepsy

The district will develop and follow an individual health plan for each student with seizure disorder or epilepsy. Each individual health care plan will include an individual emergency plan element. The health plans will be updated annually, and more frequently as needed.

The District shall designate a professional person licensed under chapter 18.71, 18.57, or 18.79 RCW as it applies to registered nurses and advanced registered nurse practitioners, to consult and coordinate with the student's parents and health care provider, and train and supervise the appropriate school district personnel in proper procedures for care for students with epilepsy or other seizure disorders to ensure a safe, therapeutic learning environment. Training required may also be provided by a national organization that offers training for school nurses for managing students with seizures and seizure training for school personnel.

In addition to adhering to the requirements of each individual health care plan, for the general care of students with seizure disorder or epilepsy, the district will:

- A. Acquire necessary parent requests and instructions for treatment;
- B. Acquire monitoring and treatment orders from licensed health care providers prescribing within the scope of their licensed authority;
- C. Provide sufficient and secure storage for medical equipment and medication provided by the parent;
- D. Establish school policy exceptions necessary to accommodate students' needs related to epilepsy or other seizure disorders, as described in the individual health plan;
- E. Ensure the development of individual emergency plans;
- F. Ensure the possession of legal documents for parent-designated adults to provide care, if needed;
- G. Ensure each individual health plan is reviewed at least annually; and
- H. Ensure each student's individual health care plan will be distributed to appropriate staff based on the student's needs and the staff member's contact with the student.

Parents of students with seizure disorders or epilepsy may designate an adult to provide care for their student consistent with the student's individual health care plan. At parent request, school district employees may volunteer to be a parent-designated adult under this policy, but they will not be required to participate.

"Parent-designated adult" means a parent-designated adult who is not licensed under chapter 18.79 and: (A) Volunteers for the designation; (B) receives additional training from a health care professional or expert in care for epilepsy or other seizure disorders selected by the parents; and (C) provides care for the child consistent with the individual health plan.

A parent-designated adult may be a school district employee. Parent-designated adults who are school employees will file a voluntary, written, current, and unexpired letter of intent stating their willingness to be a parent-designated adult. Parent-designated adults who are school employees are required to receive training in caring for students with seizures from the District designee or from a parent-selected health care professional or appropriate personnel from a national epilepsy organization that offers seizure training and education for school nurses and other school personnel and show evidence of training. If a school district employee who is not licensed under

chapter 18.79 RCW chooses not to file a letter under this section, the employee may not be subject to any employer reprisal or disciplinary action for refusing to file a letter.

Parent-designated adults who are not school employees are required to show evidence of comparable training and meet school district requirements for volunteers. Parent-designated adults must receive additional training from a parent-selected health care professional or expert in seizure care to provide the care requested by the parent. The District designee is not responsible for the supervision of procedures authorized by the parents and carried out by the parent-designated adult.

The district, its employees, agents, or parent-designated adults who act in good faith and in substantial compliance with a student's individual health care plan and the instructions of the student's health care provider will not be criminally or civilly liable for services provided under RCW 28A.210.355.

Cross References: 5630 - Volunteers
 3416 - Medication at School
 2162 - Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section
 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Legal References: 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. Americans with Disabilities Act
 RCW 28A.210.350 – Students with diabetes or epilepsy or other
 seizure disorders

Management Resources: October 2021 Policy News

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