**Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item **

**Agenda Item: D**

**Date: October 21, 2021**

**Title: Final Review of *Approved Training Programs for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder***

**Presenter: Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Special Education and Student Services**

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**Purpose of Presentation:**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

**Executive Summary:**   
The 2021 Virginia General Assembly passed [SB 1322](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+ful+SB1322S1+hil) (DeSteph) which addresses seizure management and training of school personnel for students with a known seizure disorder. In addition to setting parameters related to seizure management plans, this legislation directs each local school division to require biennial training of all school nurses on the treatment of students with seizures and seizure disorders, using a Virginia Board of Education (BOE) approved course of instruction for school nurses. It also requires each local school division to require biennial training of all school employees with direct student contact on the treatment of students with seizures and seizure disorders, using a Virginia Board of Education (BOE) approved course of instruction for school employees. Additionally, SB 1322 requires the BOE-approved training programs to be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization.

For the past several years, the VDOE has identified and promoted the Epilepsy Foundation of America’s free training for school nurses and school employees as the gold standard seizure disorders training programs. Links to these free training programs for school nurses and school personnel are posted on the VDOE [School Health](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/index.shtml) webpage and disseminated to school personnel via training and technical assistance efforts. This legislation formalizes the recommendation of training programs that has been in place for several years to support school nurses and other school staff in the recognition and response to a seizure disorder. Furthermore, this legislation mandates that local school divisions require this training be completed by school nurses and school personnel with regular student contact on a biennial basis.

The proposed ***Approved Training Programs for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder*** supports Priority 1 of the [Board of Education Comprehensive Plan](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/plan/index.shtml), “Provide high quality, effective learning environments for all students,” specifically:

* Actively foster equitable, supportive, and safe academic, disciplinary, and physical environments and encourage the engagement of all families in the academic lives of their children.
* Support and promote wrap-around services and mental and physical wellness and intervention programs to increase opportunities for all students to achieve.

The Board of Education accepted the *Approved Training Programs for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder* for first reviewat theSeptember 23, 2021, meeting. No questions or concerns were raised by Board members during first review. It was reported that no additional feedback was received from the public

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation:**The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve and adopt the *Approved Training Programs for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder* for final review.

**Rationale for Action:**

Board action is needed to meet the requirements of SB1322 (2021 General Assembly). Approving the *Approved Training Programs for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder* document will allow the Virginia Department of Education to quickly notify school divisions of the availability of this document and make it accessible to all divisions for assistance with critical training needs as we move further into the 2021-2022 school year.

**Previous Review or Action:**

**Date**: September 23, 2021

**Action**: First Review

**Background Information and Statutory Authority:**  
The 2021 General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 1322](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+ful+SB1322S1) (DeSteph) to amend and reenact § 8.01-225 of the *Code of Virginia* and to amend the *Code of Virginia* to add [§ 22.1-274.6](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-274.6/) relating to public schools; seizure management and action plan; and biennial training as follows:

*A. The parent or guardian of a student with a diagnosed seizure disorder may submit to the local school division a seizure management and action plan developed by the student's treating physician for review by school division employees with whom the student has regular contact. The seizure management and action plan shall (i) identify the health care services the student may receive at school or while participating in a school activity, (ii) identify seizure-related medication prescribed to the student that must be administered in the event of a seizure, (iii) evaluate the student's ability to manage and understand his seizure disorder, and (iv) be signed by the student's parent or guardian, the student's treating physician, and the school nurse.*

*B. Each local school division shall require all school nurses employed by the division to complete, on a biennial basis, a Board of Education-approved online course of instruction for school nurses regarding treating students with seizures and seizure disorders that includes information about seizure recognition and related first aid. Approved training programs shall be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization.*

*C. Each local school division shall require all employees whose duties include regular contact with students to complete, on a biennial basis, a Board of Education-approved online course of instruction for school employees regarding treating students with seizures and seizure disorders that includes information about seizure recognition and related first aid. Approved training programs shall be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization.*

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-274.6 (effective July 1, 2022) directs each local school division to require biennial training of all school nurses on the treatment of students with seizures and seizure disorders, using a Virginia Board of Education (BOE) approved course of instruction for school nurses. It also requires each local school division to require biennial training of all school employees with direct student contact on the treatment of students with seizures and seizure disorders, using a Virginia Board of Education (Board) approved course of instruction for school employees. Additionally, this legislation requires the Board -approved training programs to be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization.

The *Approved Training Programs for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder*

formalizes the long-standing VDOE recommendation of the free training programs provided by the Epilepsy Foundation of America. Links to the training programs for school nurses and school personnel are posted on the VDOE [School Health](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/index.shtml) webpage and disseminated to school personnel via training and technical assistance efforts.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Upon the Board of Education approval,the VDOE will make the *Approved Training Program for the Treatment of Students with a Seizure Disorder* available to school divisions on the Department’s website.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

There is no anticipated impact on the Virginia Department of Education’s fiscal and human resources nor on local school division resources.

**APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE TREATMENT OF STUDENTS WITH A SEIZURE DISORDER**

VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

## INTRODUCTION

The 2021 General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 1322](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+ful+SB1322S1) (DeSteph) to amend and reenact § 8.01-225 of the *Code of Virginia* and to amend the *Code of Virginia* to add [§ 22.1-274.6](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-274.6/) relating to public schools; seizure management and action plan; and biennial training as follows:

*A. The parent or guardian of a student with a diagnosed seizure disorder may submit to the local school division a seizure management and action plan developed by the student's treating physician for review by school division employees with whom the student has regular contact. The seizure management and action plan shall (i) identify the health care services the student may receive at school or while participating in a school activity, (ii) identify seizure-related medication prescribed to the student that must be administered in the event of a seizure, (iii) evaluate the student's ability to manage and understand his seizure disorder, and (iv) be signed by the student's parent or guardian, the student's treating physician, and the school nurse.*

*B. Each local school division shall require all school nurses employed by the division to complete, on a biennial basis, a Board of Education-approved online course of instruction for school nurses regarding treating students with seizures and seizure disorders that includes information about seizure recognition and related first aid. Approved training programs shall be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization.*

*C. Each local school division shall require all employees whose duties include regular contact with students to complete, on a biennial basis, a Board of Education-approved online course of instruction for school employees regarding treating students with seizures and seizure disorders that includes information about seizure recognition and related first aid. Approved training programs shall be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization.*

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-274.6 directs each local school division to require biennial training of all school nurses on the treatment of students with seizures and seizure disorders, using a Virginia Board of Education (BOE) approved course of instruction for school nurses. It also requires each local school division to require biennial training of all school employees with direct student contact on the treatment of students with seizures and seizure disorders, using a Virginia Board of Education (BOE) approved course of instruction for school employees.

This bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2022.

## Approved Training Program for School Nurses

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-274.6 requires all BOE-approved training programs for school nurses to be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the [Epilepsy Foundation](https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education) of America and any successor organization.

The [Seizure Training for School Nurses](https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education/seizure-training-school-nurses-caring-students), provided online and on-demand by the Epilepsy Foundation, is a program designed to provide the school nurse with information, strategies, and resources that will enable them to better manage the student with seizures by supporting positive treatment outcomes, maximizing educational and developmental opportunities, and ensuring a safe and supportive environment. The program consists of seven modules to assist the school nurse in learning to effectively manage seizures in a school environment.

Local school divisions shall require school nurses employed by the school division to complete the [Seizure Training for School Nurses](https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education/seizure-training-school-nurses-caring-students) on a biennial basis. This training is available on the Epilepsy Foundation of America website, as well as on the [VDOE Health Services](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/index.shtml) webpage.

## Approved Training Program for School PERSONNEL

The *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-274.6 requires all BOE-approved training programs for school personnel to be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the [Epilepsy Foundation](https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education) of America and any successor organization.

The [Seizure Training for School Personnel](https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education/seizure-training-school-personnel), provided online and on-demand by the Epilepsy Foundation, is designed for people who work with children and youth in school settings. This program provides an overview of seizures and epilepsy, seizure first aid, seizure action plans, rescue therapies, seizure emergencies and how to support students in school settings. This course is appropriate for teachers, aides, coaches, administrators and anyone who works in the school setting.

Local school divisions shall require school employees with regular contact with students to complete the [Seizure Training for School Personnel](https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/our-training-and-education/seizure-training-school-personnel) on a biennial basis. This training is available on the Epilepsy Foundation of America website, as well as on the [VDOE Health Services](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/index.shtml) webpage.