

FAQ SEIZURE SMART SCHOOLS

Frequently Asked Questions

Keep this sheet handy during your meetings to help answer some of the most frequently asked questions we've heard from legislators. If they ask a question that's not on this sheet and you don't know the answer, please write it down and let our staff know so we can follow-up and get them an answer.

What are the bill numbers?

In the House, Seizure Smart Schools is HF 469. In the Senate, Seizure Smart School is SF 654.

Who are the authors in the House?

The House bill's chief author is Rep. Kelly Moller. Other coauthors include Rep. Dave Baker, Rep. Heather Edelson, Rep. Cheryl Youakim, Rep. Greg Boe, Rep. Sandra Feist, Rep. Peggy Bennett, and Rep. Cedrick Frazier.

Who are the authors in the Senate?

The Senate bill's chief author is Sen. Andrew Lang. On the senate side there can only be five authors in total. The senate coauthors include Sen. Zach Duckworth, Sen. Julia Coleman, and Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen. Sen. Chuck Wiger is currently in the process of signing on and will fill the 5th and final slot. Please do not ask your Senator to sign on to be a coauthor.

Is this bill partisan?

Nope. This bill has both republicans and democrats as authors and supporters.

What committees will it go to?

On the House side Seizure Smart Schools has already been heard in the Education Policy Committee and does not need to be seen in any other committees. On the Senate side, Seizure Smart Schools will need to be heard in the Education Finance and Policy Committee before March 19th in order to continue forward.

Will this cost anything?

Nope! There is no cost to this bill. Seizure Action Plans are already commonly used and training materials are available for free through the Epilepsy Foundation and the School Nurses Association.



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Can't a student use a 504 plan or IEP?

504 plans and IEPs meet the requirements of this legislation so many students are already covered. Some students just need a Seizure Action Plan so being able to just do this piece saves everyone time and energy.

Does the specific staff person need to be named?

The point person can either be an individual or a general position, there's flexibility so that the school can determine how best to make sure someone with training is available if a student has a seizure.

What does "school day" mean?

This is intentionally flexible because we know that school days look different in each school. The ultimate goal is to ensure that there is someone who is trained to respond to a seizure available while the student is in school.

Who does Seizure Smart Schools benefit?

Students, teachers, school staff, and parents! Students are better supported to thrive academically when they feel safe. Teachers and school staff get the information they need to respond when seizures happen in their building. Parents know that their child is surrounded by people with a basic understanding of how to respond to seizures when they happen in school.

How can a lawmaker support Seizure Smart Schools Legislation?

If they're in the House of Representatives, ask them to sign on as a coauthor. If they're a senator ask them to make sure it gets a hearing in the Education Finance and Policy committee. We cannot add anymore senators as coauthors. You can always ask a lawmaker to vote yes if they see it on the floor, and talk to their colleagues about the bill.

How can I (an advocate) help?

Share your story with your lawmaker. Would Seizure Smart Schools change your family's experiences in the school system? Write a letter to the editor and share your support for the bill with your community in a local newspaper. Check out the "Next Steps" handout for other ideas.

