

# Chronic Health Conditions

Affecting Louisiana Students



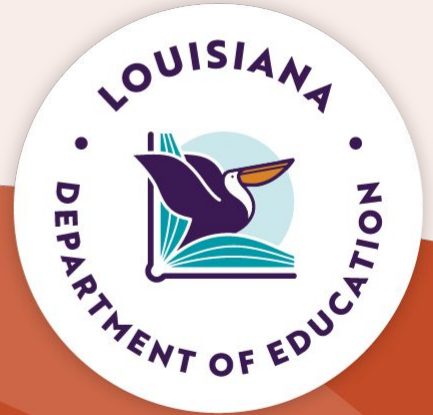
[susan.dupont@la.gov](mailto:susan.dupont@la.gov)

# Objectives



- Define Chronic Health Conditions
- Identify Common Chronic Health Conditions
- Discuss Effects on Student Attendance
- Review School Nursing Interventions

# What is a Chronic Health Condition?



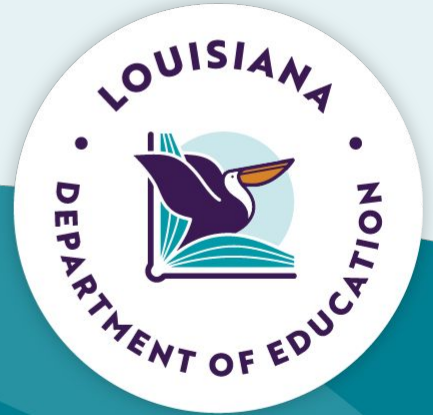
# Definition

The CDC defines Chronic Health Conditions as “conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both”.



# Common Chronic Health Conditions

What are some common chronic health conditions seen in schools?



# CHRONIC

A hand is shown holding a thick blue horizontal line that extends from the left side of the frame towards the center, positioned below the word 'CHRONIC'.

## Common Chronic Health Conditions

- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Seizure disorders
- Food Allergies
- Obesity
- Inadequate dental health

# Diabetes

- Under age 20, 1 in 400 individuals are estimated to have Diabetes.
- Approximately 352,000 individuals have been diagnosed.
- 1,952 children on Louisiana Medicaid were diagnosed with Diabetes in 2019.



# R.S. 17:436.3

## Highlights of the Law:

- Parent to provide from student's Health Care Provider a Diabetes Management Treatment Plan
- The school RN shall provide care to the Diabetic student
- Unlicensed Diabetes Care Assistant (UDCA) definition and training
- Student's self management of Diabetes
- Providing information about Diabetic Student to bus drivers and person's supervising during off campus activities
- Liability for school employees





# Asthma



- Approximately 6.7% of school age children have Asthma
- 7.2% of Louisiana students have Asthma
- Asthma is more common in males than females

# R.S. 17:436.1

## Highlights of the Law:

- Parent is to provide child's healthcare provider prescription
- Parent to provide properly labeled medication
- Parent to sign consent
- School RN is to develop an Individual Health Plan (IHP) and an Emergency Action Plan
- Provider to authorize student to self administer and self carry of Asthma medications
- Allows for school RNs to have Trained Unlicensed School Employees (TUSE) administer medications
- Liability for school employees



# Asthmatic Student Challenges

- Missing school due to Asthma Attacks and doctor appointments
- Difficulty in participating in physical activities
- Falling behind in school due to missed days
- Anxiety and Stress
- Difficulty in Managing Medications
- Lack of awareness by teachers and staff and sometimes parents



# Seizure Disorders

- Approximately 456,000 children 17 and under have an Epilepsy diagnosis.
- It is estimated that 7,900 children in LA have a seizure disorder.
- Students can have a seizure disorder and not have Epilepsy.
- There are two types of Seizures, Focal and Generalized.

# R.S. 17:436.4

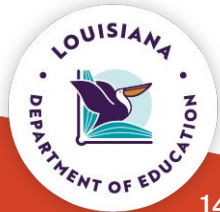
## Highlights of the Law:

- Parent can submit a seizure action plan.
- Training biennially for school nurses on seizure recognition and first aid.
- Training biennially for teachers and school bus drivers on seizure recognition and first aid who have a student with a seizure action plan.



# Challenges for Students with Seizure Disorder

- Learning challenges
- Medication side effects
- Missed class time
- Anxiety and stress
- Physical limitations
- Communication challenges
- Lack of awareness



# Food Allergies

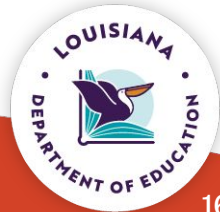
- 16%-18% of school age children experience food allergy reactions
- 25% of first allergic reactions of children occur at school
- Children with food allergies are more likely to have Asthma
- Over 58,000 school aged children in Louisiana have a food allergy



# R.S. 17:436.1

## Highlights of Epinephrine Administration:

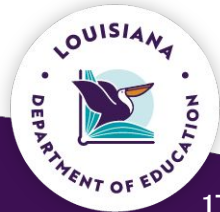
- Parent is to provide from their child's healthcare provider prescription
- Parent to provide properly labeled medication
- Parent to sign consent
- School RN is to develop an IHP and an Emergency Action Plan
- Provider to authorize student to self administer and self carry of EpiPen medication
- Allows for school RNs to have Trained Unlicensed School Employees (TUSE) to administer medications
- Allows for schools to maintain a stock supply of Epinephrine
- Liability for school employees





# Food Allergy Student Challenges

- Risk for anaphylaxis
- Social isolation
- Diets too low in fat can lead to growth concerns



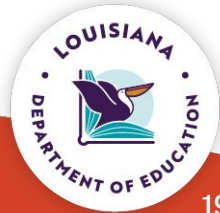
# Obesity

- 35.6% of Louisiana Children age 10-17 are Obese/Overweight
- Louisiana ranks 46 out of 50 in childhood obesity rates
- 1 in 3 children are considered obese in Louisiana



# Inadequate Dental Health

- 40% of children have tooth decay by Kindergarten
- 86% of parishes in Louisiana do not have access to oral care
- 56.4% of third grade students had damage to tooth surface/enamel

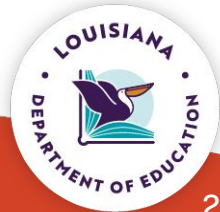


# Combating Chronic Absenteeism

- Recognizing students with chronic health conditions
- Educating teachers and staff
- Work with parents to reassure fears/safety of their child
- Encourage early morning and late afternoon appointments
- Work with educators to offer accommodations to physical activity
- Provide opportunities for make up of missed work
- Utilization of the Diabetes, Seizure, and Asthma Action plans
- Utilization of trained staff in administering medications at school
- Communicate with student's providers for case management

# Reduction of Chronic Absenteeism

Management of chronic health conditions in the school setting by the school RN can help to reduce the number of days a student is absent. Through education of teachers, school staff, administrators, and parents, the student with a chronic health condition can remain safely in school.



# Conclusion

School RNs help to provide a safe school environment for students with chronic health conditions in Louisiana with the goal of keeping students in the classroom. By eliminating the barriers that chronic health conditions can create for students, school RNs focus on assessment, triage, management and education of school personnel to assist students in being successful in school.





Questions?

# Resources

- [Chronic Diseases in America](#)
- [Diabetes and Obesity Report for the Medicaid Managed Care Program](#)
- [Helping The Student with Diabetes Succeed](#)
- [Prevalence of current asthma among children in the United States as of 2022, by state](#)
- [Managing Asthma at School](#)
- [Most Recent National Asthma Data](#)
- [School Based Nursing Services in Louisiana Schools](#)





# Resources

- [Types of Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders](#)
- [Epilepsy Facts and Stats](#)
- [What is Epilepsy?](#)
- [Food Allergy Knowledge, Attitude, and Beliefs Among Kindergarten Through Fourth-Grade Teachers](#)
- [Overweight or Obesity-Youth in Louisiana](#)
- [Oral Health Promotion](#)
- [The National Survey of Children's Health](#)

