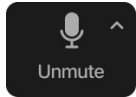
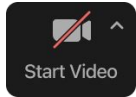


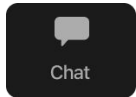
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov



Safe and Healthy Schools Community of Practice Call

October 23, 2025





Changing the Journey One Solution at a Time

Stephanie Charles, BSN

Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana

- **Mission:** EAL is committed to supporting those impacted by epilepsy in local communities by confronting the spectrum of challenges created by seizures.
- Proudly serving those impacted by epilepsy and seizures since 1977 through three core program areas:
 - **Client Services**
 - **Seizure First Aid & Safety Training**
 - **Educational & Community-Building Events**

Why Seizure Awareness is Critical

1 in 10 people will have a **seizure** in their lifetime!



ANYONE with a brain could have a **seizure**
ANYWHERE, ANYTIME!

Epilepsy is more common than you think

1 in 26 people will develop **epilepsy** in their lifetime!



Client Services Overview

- Comprehensive support to people living with epilepsy and seizures.
- Client Services Managers help navigate the challenges of epilepsy and ensure access to essential resources.
- Areas of support include:
 - Understanding your epilepsy diagnosis
 - Navigating insurance and pharmacy needs
 - Finding an epilepsy specialist
 - Assisting with transportation options
 - Addressing issues with school or work
 - Help with other needs related to epilepsy

Client Services Programs

- **Clinic Outreach**

- Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital - Baton Rouge
- Children's Hospital New Orleans
- Children's Special Health Services - Hammond

- **Client Assistance Program**

- **Hospitality Bags**

Seizure First Aid and Safety Training

- Training prepares participants to identify and respond to seizures and to recognize when a seizure is an emergency.
- Types of training available:
 - In-person, live online, or on-demand
 - General public and specialized audiences:
 - School personnel
 - Childcare centers
 - Social workers
 - Police officers and first responders



Educational and Community-Building Events

- We bring people together to raise awareness, provide education, and build a stronger epilepsy community through events across Louisiana and beyond.
- **Education:**
 - **Adult Epilepsy Expo** - New Orleans
 - **Pediatric Epilepsy Expo** - Baton Rouge

Educational and Community-Building Events

- **Community-Building:**

- **Purple Picnic** - Shreveport
- Monthly **Adult Support Groups** - Online
- **SPOKES** (Support of Parents and Kids with Epilepsy and Seizures)
- **SEAS** (Supporting Epilepsy in Adults with Seizures) - Shreveport
- **Epilepsy Awareness Day** at Disneyland
- **Seize the Day Warrior Walk** - Baton Rouge, Youngsville, and New Orleans

What is epilepsy?



What is epilepsy?

Seizures

A seizure is an EVENT.

A single episode of abnormal electrical brain activity.



Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a neurological DISORDER.

A chronic condition involving recurrent, unprovoked seizures.



What are the causes of epilepsy?

30%
Known Causes



70%
Unknown Causes

- Brain trauma or injury
- Brain lesions (e.g. tumors)
- Poisoning (lead)
- Infections/inflammation of the brain (e.g. *meningitis*, *encephalitis*)
- Abnormal brain development

- Presumed to be genetic

Seizure Types

There are over 20 different types of seizures!

Seizures are classified into two main groups:



FOCAL

Seizures are located in just **ONE** area of the brain.

- Focal onset with awareness maintained
- Focal onset with impaired awareness



GENERALIZED

Seizures affect **BOTH** sides of the brain.

- Absence
- Tonic clonic
- Myoclonic

SEIZURE FIRST AID – Generalized Tonic Clonic

T Turn person on their side 

R Remove objects/glasses 

U Use something soft under their head 

S Stay calm & stay with the person 

T Time seizure 

WHAT NOT TO DO DURING A SEIZURE!

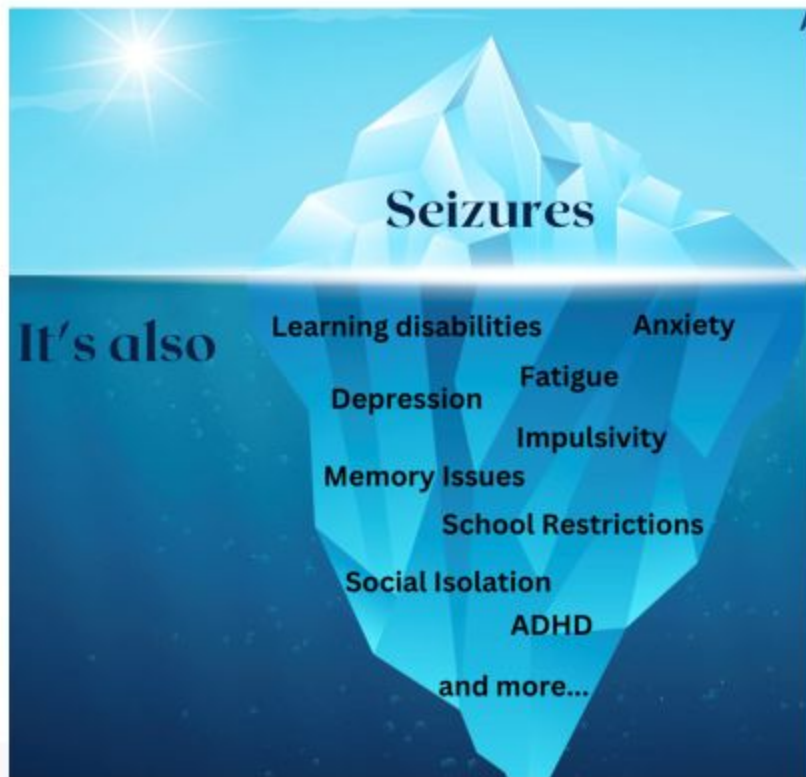


DON'TS

- Do **NOT** put anything in the person's mouth!
- Do **NOT** hold the person down or restrain them!
- Do **NOT** attempt to give them food or drink!

The Impact of Epilepsy

- Physical health challenges
- Emotional and mental health impact
- Educational barriers
- Employment difficulties
- Social isolation
- Driving restrictions
- Medication side effects
- Healthcare costs
- Stigma and misunderstanding
- Family and caregiver impact



Mental Health

- Epilepsy is not a form of mental illness
- People with epilepsy are no less intelligent than those without epilepsy
- Children with epilepsy often experience stigma so much that their parents may withhold the diagnosis from school personnel for fear of the stigma their child may face
- 63% of children with epilepsy have been reported to have depression or anxiety disorder
- This could be due to the challenges of managing the condition, feelings of social isolation, or medication side effects
- Normalize seeking help for mental health concerns

How to Get Involved with Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana



PARTICIPATE

Take part in events like the Seize the Day Warrior Walks, support groups, or our community epilepsy expos.



VOLUNTEER

Join us at events or behind the scenes to help build stronger communities.



ADVOCATE

Spread awareness about epilepsy and seizures by sharing our resources and educating your community.



Stay up to date

Support our essential services and help us reach more people impacted by epilepsy and seizures.



**Sign Up For Our
Newsletter!**

Contact Information

Stephanie Charles BSN

225-341-6681

stephanie.c@epilepsylouisiana.org



Questions?

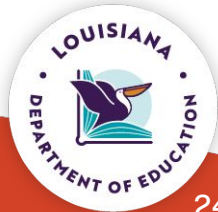
Safe and Healthy School Reminders



National Bullying Prevention Month

- October is National Bullying Prevention Month.
- Bullying increases youth risk for anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and behaviors in youth ([CDC, 2023](#)).
- Bullying is an adverse childhood experience that is widespread.
- Bullying harms all youth involved including those who are bullied, those who bully others and bystanders who witness it.
- Resources:
 - Stop Bullying [Stop Bullying](#)
 - CDC: [Youth Violence](#)
 - SAMHSA [Trauma and Violence](#)

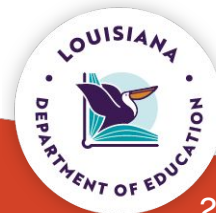
Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



Mental Health Screening Reminder

- [Act 324](#) of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session on behavioral or emotional challenges of students; referral for assessment and treatment and reporting. A designate of each school will be responsible for identifying behavioral and mental health supportive services and facilitating a referral for assessment and treatment.

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

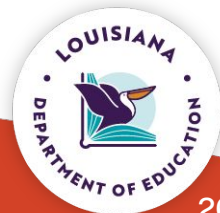


Medicaid School Based Programmatic Updates

- [Informational Bulletin 25-18:](#)
Attention LEA Providers: Guidance on Occupational Therapy Coverage and Requirements for the School-Based Medicaid Program (July 21, 2025)
- [Informational Bulletin 25-23:](#)
Attention Local Education Agency (LEA) Providers: Behavioral Health Procedure Codes Added to the School-Based Medicaid Program (August 29, 2025)
- [Informational Bulletin 25-24:](#)
Notice to Local Education Agency (LEA) Providers: Procedure Code 99173 – EPSDT Vision Screening Rate Correction (September 11, 2025)

Credit/Source:<https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/informational-bulletins>

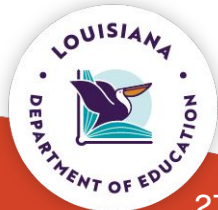
Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



Medicaid: New Vendor

- HORNE Healthcare
 - Has partnered with Medicaid to develop strategies on effective programming that improve student health outcomes through Medicaid Services and school collaboration.
- The Louisiana Department of Health will host Medicaid focus groups and Random Moment Time Study (RTMS) training in the month of October. Dates and details to follow.

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



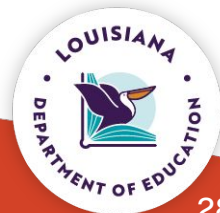
Louisiana School of Social Work Conference

The 5th Annual Louisiana School of Social Work Conference

- **When:** Wednesday October 22, 2025
- **Where:** East Baton Rouge Parish River Center Library (Baton Rouge)
- **Registration:** [Eventbrite](#)
- **CEUs:** Continuing education credits pending approval

*Lunch & light snacks provided

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

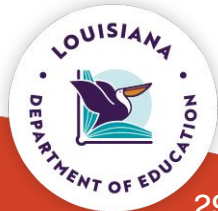


Capital Area Trauma Summit

A full-day event designed to bring together child and family-facing professional in the greater Baton Rouge area to learn about the impacts of trauma and how trauma can be prevented and addressed through coordinated, community efforts. The summit is sponsored by Capital Area Trauma Collaborative (CATC).

- **When:** Friday, November 14, 2025, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Where:** Baton Rouge Community College, Student Activity Center, (Baton Rouge)
- **Registration:** [Eventbrite](#)
- **Audience:** healthcare professionals, education, law enforcement, foster care, social services, or non-profit organizations.

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



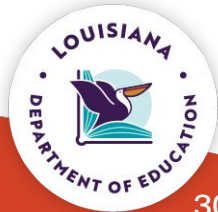
Whole Health Louisiana

The Whole Health Louisiana (WHL) Statewide plan addresses the widespread issue of childhood adversity and trauma through the integration of trauma informed and healing-centered approaches the state's systems of care and support for children and families.

- Lunch and Learns:
 - Thursday October 16 @ 12 pm-1 pm
 - Thursday November 13 @ 12 pm-1 pm

To register or learn more, visit the website at wholehealthlouisiana.org.

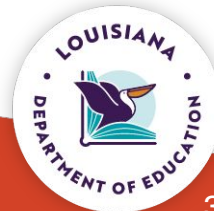
Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



National Diabetes Awareness Month

- Observed during the month of November.
- Information on [Type 1 Diabetes](#) for schools is to be distributed per [ACT 402](#).
- Public School Boards shall distribute information to parents and legal guardians of ALL students enrolled and annually by posting on school websites or electronic distribution.

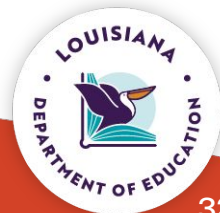
Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



National Epilepsy Awareness Month

- Observed in November of each year.
- [Seizure training resources](#) for schools located on the LDOE website.

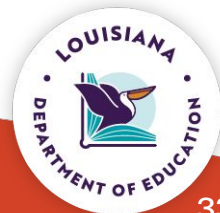
Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs)

- [Bulletin 741](#) now includes a section on School Health Advisory Councils (SHAC).
- SHAC will advise the school board on physical activity for students, physical and health education, nutrition, and overall student health.
- May advise the board on vending machine restrictions, use of physical fitness assessments results, and school recess policies.
- SHAC shall include students, parents, and individuals from the community.

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

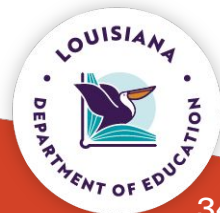


National School Bus Safety Week

National School Bus Safety Week is October 20-24, 2025.

- The 2025-26 National [School Bus Safety Week Poster](#) Contest theme: Safety First, Safety Always

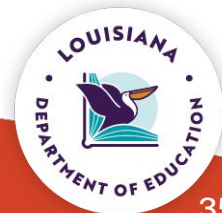
Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



School Support, Health and Physical Activity Awards

- The Louisiana Department of Education recognizes that outstanding school support staff and vibrant school health programs play a vital role in the education process.
- Through the following [awards](#) programs, some of the state's most exceptional schools and support staff are recognized and celebrated.
 - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year
 - School Health Service Provider of the Year
 - School Physical Activity Award

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

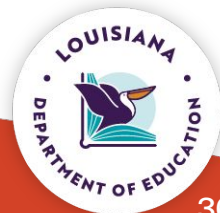


2025-2026 Health and PE in Schools Survey

Statute requires the LDOE to monitor and evaluate health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools, and to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature.

- [Survey link](#) shared in last week's Principal's Newsletter
- Participation ensures Senate and House Committees receive accurate, high-quality data
- Principals complete **by October 31**

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



Safe and Healthy Schools Team

stephen.guccione@la.gov	Safe and Healthy Schools: School Safety, School Health, Transportation, Coordinated School Health Program, Professional Development and Technical Assistance Support
levillia.moore@la.gov	AWARE, School-Based Mental Health and Behavioral Health, Suicide Prevention
susan.dupont@la.gov	Louisiana Healthy Schools Initiative, School Nursing, School-based Medicaid, Occupational and Physical Therapy
healthyschools@la.gov	Safe and Healthy Schools Questions





Monthly Call Slides

Monthly call presentations are available in the [School System Planning Library](#).

- Office of Career and College Readiness
 - Healthy Communities
 - Healthy Schools Community of Practice

Schedules, access links and information for the Department's webinars can be found in the [LDOE Weekly Newsletter](#) and [School System Support Calendar](#).

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.





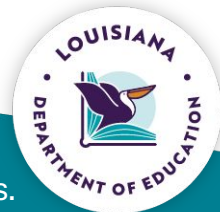
Next Safe & Healthy Schools Community of Practice Call:

Next call

Date: January 22, 2026

**Topic: Medical Emergencies in
Schools**

Please contact Healthyschools@la.gov with questions.





Questions?