

# ADMINISTERING DIASTAT IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

## The Role of the Schools and the Role of the Parents

This information is for the schools electing to participate in this program and for the parents (or guardians) of students with epilepsy with a prescription for Diastat emergency antiseizure medication. This information is based on Senate Bill 161 (Chapter 560 California Education Code) and is prepared by Epilepsy California with the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles and Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICTS participating in this program should develop a district plan to:**

1. Identify existing staff in the school district that can be trained to administer emergency antiseizure medication and is available to respond to administer emergency antiseizure medication.
2. Identify student(s) who may require the administration of emergency antiseizure medication.
3. Notify the parent that his/her child may qualify for services or accommodations under Section 504 Plan or an Individualized Education Program.
  - a. Assist the parent to explore the options, and if it is determined that their child is eligible for a Section 504 Plan or IEP then encourage the parent to adopt that option.
  - b. Ask the parent to sign a notice verifying they were given information regarding a Section 504 Plan and that they understand their rights under it.
  - c. Assist the parent to consider other options if parent elects not to have his/her child assessed under Section 504 of the IDEA.
4. Provide the parent with a form that they can give to their child's doctor to complete so there is a seizure action plan, individualized health plan, or other appropriate health plan designed to acknowledge and prepare for their child's health care needs in school. Review the plan with the parent upon completion.
5. Establish a plan to identify and train licensed vocational nurses or school employees who volunteer so they can administer emergency antiseizure medication. (Schools should further review the Advisory or the law for the instructions and steps to solicit and train volunteers.)

### **PARENTS of student with prescription for emergency antiseizure medication should:**

1. Notify the school that their child has a prescription for Diastat
2. Provide written authorization for a nonmedical school employee to administer emergency antiseizure medication to their child.
3. Consider their right to request a Section 504 Plan or IEP for their child at any time.
4. Notify the school if the student has had emergency antiseizure medication administered within the past four hours on a school day.
5. Provide the school with a written statement from the student's healthcare provider containing at least the following items:
  - ✓ Student's Name.
  - ✓ Name and purpose of prescribed medication.
  - ✓ Prescribed dosage.
  - ✓ The length of time the seizure may continue before administration of Diastat is necessary.
  - ✓ Detailed seizure symptoms - frequency, type, or length of seizures that identify when the administration of the medication becomes necessary.
  - ✓ Method of administration.
  - ✓ Frequency with which the medication may be administered.
  - ✓ Circumstances under which the medication may be administered.
  - ✓ Potential adverse responses including when to call emergency services.
  - ✓ Protocol for observation after a seizure; Examples: pupil should rest in the school office, whether the pupil may return to class, and the length of time the pupil should be under direct observation.