

Safe at School
Ontario

PPM 161 Action Guide

This Action Guide focuses specifically on school safety concerns and proposed PPM 161 updates affecting students living with epilepsy.

Ontario is currently reviewing PPM 161

PPM 161 is the Ontario policy that guides how schools support students with prevalent medical conditions, including:



EPILEPSY



ASTHMA



DIABETES



ANAPHYLAXIS

The proposed updates could shape how schools plan for medical care, emergency response, staff training, communication, and student safety across Ontario.

Why This Matters

For medically fragile children with epilepsy

Children living with epilepsy can face significant risks in the school environment. Seizures can happen without warning and sometimes require immediate intervention.

When schools lack clear policies, training, or emergency planning, the consequences can be serious.

Strong, consistent, and enforceable supports help ensure medically fragile students are safe, understood, and supported appropriately at school.

How This Guide Helps

This guide was created to help readers:



Understand what PPM 161 is and why it matters



Learn about the proposed updates and what they could mean



Understand why the consultation matters and how your input counts



Explore key advocacy priorities and learn how to participate before decisions are finalized



**PUBLIC CONSULTATION
DEADLINE**

JULY 12, 2026

A public consultation allows the Ontario government to gather public feedback before final decisions are made.

The proposed PPM 161 updates are not final yet, and public input can still help shape the policy.

Safe at School Ontario

We are a grassroots parent-led initiative dedicated to protecting children with uncontrolled epilepsy in Ontario schools.

Safe at School Ontario supports stronger, clearer, and more enforceable protections that reflect the realities of high-risk and unpredictable seizures and help medically fragile students access safe, supported learning environments across Ontario.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

The proposed PPM 161 updates are not final yet. Help shape stronger protections, clearer accountability, and safer school environments for medically fragile students across Ontario by participating in the public consultation process before decisions are finalized.

Why PPM 161 Matters

Creating Safer, More Inclusive Schools

PPM 161 is Ontario's policy that guides how schools support students with **prevalent medical conditions**, including epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, and anaphylaxis.

The proposed updates present an important opportunity to strengthen protections, improve consistency, and ensure medically fragile students can learn, participate, and thrive safely at school.

Why This Update Is Important

Student Safety

Clear, consistent expectations help reduce preventable risks and support timely responses to seizures and other medical emergencies.

Equity and Inclusion

Medically fragile students deserve the same access to learning, participation, and school life as their peers.

Clarity and Consistency

Stronger guidance helps ensure expectations are understood and applied consistently across school boards and schools.

Prepared Staff

Clear expectations for training and emergency response help staff feel prepared and confident.

Included in the Proposed PPM 161 Updates

- 1 Stronger "must" language:**
Key responsibilities for school boards and principals strengthened from "should" to "must."
- 2 Standardized Plans of Care:**
A new ministry-provided template with required information, including SUDEP risk factors, trained responders, and acknowledgement processes.
- 3 Routine Management:**
Clear definition of routine care and required board expectations to support daily management at school.
- 4 Emergency Response:**
Clear definition of emergency care and required board expectations for staff responses aligned with medical emergency procedures and each student's Plan of Care.
- 5 Standardized Training:**
Province-wide minimum training on prevalent medical conditions, CPR, AED, and emergency response for staff in direct contact with students.
- 6 Reporting Requirements:**
Annual reporting to the ministry on the number of students with each condition and the number of staff trained.

Additional Priority We Continue to Advocate For

Direct Line-of-Sight Support for High-Risk Students

Clearer guidance around direct line-of-sight support for students identified as high risk, when clinically appropriate, to help support timely intervention and student safety.



Safe at School Ontario participated in the first round of consultations and continues to advocate for strong, clear, and enforceable protections for medically fragile students across Ontario schools—so they can learn, participate, and thrive safely.

Why Stronger Protections Are Needed

Students living with uncontrolled epilepsy can face serious risks at school when supervision, emergency response procedures, and safety expectations are inconsistent.

For medically fragile students, school safety planning can directly impact wellbeing, inclusion, and access to education.



A Family's Reality

Our son Charlie is six years old and lives with drug-resistant epilepsy. His seizures can be frequent, unpredictable, and sometimes subtle.

Our family experienced firsthand how differently school safety protections and medical supports can be interpreted across school boards, even when complex medical needs are clearly documented.



Remembering Landyn Ferris

The death of Landyn Ferris is a devastating reminder that gaps in supervision and unclear policies can have serious and irreversible consequences.

No child should experience preventable harm because protections were inconsistent or unclear.



PPM 161 was an important first step, but medically fragile students still face gaps in:

Consistency

Expectations and interpretations vary too widely across school boards and schools.

Accountability

There is limited oversight when protections are not followed or plans are not implemented.

Supervision Guidance

Current guidance does not always reflect the level of supervision many students need.

Emergency Response

Gaps remain in training, readiness, and consistency of emergency procedures.

Implementation

Uneven training, resources, and supports impact student safety every day.

Every student deserves to learn, participate, and thrive in a safe and inclusive school environment—every single day.

What Safe at School Ontario Continues to Advocate For



Safe at School Ontario supports stronger, clearer, and more enforceable protections for medically fragile students across Ontario schools.

Our recommendations focus on the changes needed to ensure every student can learn, participate, and thrive safely.

1



Stronger and Clearer Policy Language

- Use "must" instead of "should" where appropriate to ensure accountability.
- Establish clear, enforceable expectations for school boards and staff.
- Ensure consistent interpretation and application across all school boards.
- Strengthen accountability for implementation and compliance.

2



Risk-Informed Plans of Care

- Require individualized Plans of Care for students with medical conditions.
- Include SUDEP risk factors and other relevant clinical information.
- Ensure collaboration between families, healthcare providers, and schools.
- Identify trained responders and clearly outline their responsibilities.

3



Direct Line-of-Sight Guidance for High-Risk Students

- Provide clear, evidence-informed guidance on when direct line-of-sight support is clinically appropriate.
- Ensure supervision guidance reflects individualized risk and medical needs.
- Support timely intervention and reduce preventable harm.

4



Emergency Response and Staff Training

- Ensure all staff likely to support students are trained in seizure recognition, emergency response, CPR, and AED use.
- Ensure access to and readiness for emergency medication when prescribed.
- Require regular training refreshers and clear documentation of training.

5



Province-Wide Consistency and Accountability

- Ensure consistent implementation of PPM 161 across all school boards.
- Establish monitoring, reporting, and enforcement mechanisms.
- Collect and report data on implementation and outcomes.
- Guarantee equitable protections for every medically fragile student, regardless of where they live or attend school.



Every medically fragile student deserves safe, equitable, and consistent protections at school.

When policies are clear, consistently implemented, and backed by accountability, students are safer, more included, and better able to thrive.

Understanding SUDEP Risk

Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP)

SUDEP refers to the sudden, unexpected death of a person with epilepsy that is not caused by injury, drowning, or another known cause.



Why It Matters

For families affected by epilepsy, SUDEP is one of the most serious and difficult risks associated with the condition.

While SUDEP is rare, certain factors — including uncontrolled or frequent seizures — can increase risk for some individuals.

For medically fragile students, risk-informed safety planning, supervision, communication, and emergency preparedness can play an important role in supporting student safety at school.



Progress in the Proposed Updates

The proposed inclusion of SUDEP risk factors within standardized Plans of Care represents an important step forward in formally recognizing epilepsy-related risk within schools.

The proposed changes also help strengthen awareness, consistency, emergency planning, and communication between families, healthcare providers, and school staff.



What We Continue to Advocate For

Direct Line-of-Sight Support

Safe at School Ontario continues to advocate for clearer recognition of when direct line-of-sight support may be necessary for students with high-risk or unpredictable seizures, including students identified as being at increased risk of SUDEP.

Supervision guidance should reflect individualized medical needs and support timely intervention when clinically appropriate.



Not Sure What to Write? Start Here

You do not need to write anything complicated. Short, respectful comments from parents, caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, and community members can help strengthen the final policy.

You are welcome to use, adapt, combine, or build on example comments and lived experiences when submitting feedback during the public consultation process.

EXAMPLE COMMENTS

“

Including SUDEP risk factors in Plans of Care is an important step that recognizes the real risks faced by students with epilepsy.

“

Clear guidance on when direct line-of-sight support is needed will help keep students with high-risk seizures safer at school.

“

Policies should ensure that individualized medical needs, including SUDEP risk factors, are consistently recognized and supported.

“

Staff training, awareness, and readiness are essential to support timely intervention and reduce preventable risks for students.

“

Consistency across all school boards is critical so that every student receives and same level of protection, regardless of where they attend school.



Every voice helps strengthen protections for medically fragile students across Ontario schools.

Example Feedback Comments

You do not need to write a long submission to participate in the consultation. Short, respectful comments and lived experiences can help strengthen the final policy. You are welcome to adapt, combine, or build on any of the examples below.

1 Example 1 — Consistency

“

I support stronger, more consistent protections for medically fragile students across Ontario schools. Student safety should not depend on where a child lives or attends school.

”

2 Example 2 — Plans of Care

“

Including SUDEP risk factors within Plans of Care is an important step toward improving awareness, communication, and individualized safety planning for students living with epilepsy.

”

3 Example 3 — Direct Line-of-Sight Support

“

Clearer guidance around when direct line-of-sight support may be clinically appropriate could help improve safety for students with high-risk or unpredictable seizures.

”

4 Example 4 — Emergency Response

“

Consistent staff training in seizure recognition, emergency response, CPR, AED use, and emergency medication administration is essential for student safety.

”

5 Example 5 — Accountability

“

Clearer and more enforceable expectations can help improve consistency, accountability, and implementation across school boards.

”

6 Example 6 — Equity and Inclusion

“

Medically fragile students deserve equitable access to learning, school activities, and safe participation in school life.

”



Every voice and lived experience can help strengthen protections for medically fragile students across Ontario schools.



Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective. Your feedback helps build safer schools for all.

What Happens Next?

Safe AT School
Ontario



Your voice helps shape stronger, more inclusive safety policies for students with epilepsy.



Your Feedback Matters

The PPM 161 consultation is an important opportunity for families, educators, students, healthcare professionals, and community members to share what's working—and what needs to change.



Your feedback is reviewed and considered as part of the policy development process.



Lived experience brings important insight that data alone cannot capture.



Stronger protections come from participation. Every comment helps move the system forward.



Together, we can build safer, more inclusive schools where every student can learn, belong, and thrive.



The Consultation Process

1



Submit Your Feedback

Share your perspective by commenting on the PPM 161 proposal before the deadline.

Submit your feedback through the Ontario Regulatory Registry.



SCAN ME

2



Ministry Reviews Responses

The Ministry of Education reviews all feedback from families, educators, students, school boards, healthcare professionals, and community partners.

3



Policy Updates Are Finalized

Feedback helps inform decisions and supports the creation of updated policies that better reflect student needs.

4



Updated Policies Are Implemented

School boards implement the updated expectations to help ensure safer, more inclusive schools for all students.



Why Every Submission Matters



Raises awareness about the real challenges students and families face every day.



Reflects lived experience and ensures student voices are part of decision-making.



Strengthens accountability and helps ensure policies are clear, consistent, and enforceable.



Helps improve safety, inclusion, and belonging in schools across Ontario.



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safeatschoolontario.ca

Access resources, guides, and advocacy updates.



Follow Us on Instagram & Facebook

[@safeatschoolontario](https://www.instagram.com/safeatschoolontario)

Get updates, advocacy tools, and ways to get involved.



Submit Your Feedback Before

July 12, 2026

Visit the Ontario Regulatory Registry consultation page and share your perspective. Every submission helps strengthen protections for medically fragile students across Ontario schools.



Together, we can help create safer, more inclusive schools for medically fragile students across Ontario.



Resources and Support for Families

Families caring for children with epilepsy or other medically complex conditions may benefit from additional support, information, advocacy resources, and community connections.

EPILEPSY AND SUDEP RESOURCES

These organizations offer information, education, and support for individuals and families living with epilepsy.

- **Epilepsy Ontario**
Support, education, advocacy, and community resources for families living with epilepsy.
- **Epilepsy Canada**
National epilepsy information, awareness initiatives, and educational resources.
- **SUDEP Action**
Information and support related to Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), including awareness and risk reduction resources.
- **SickKids Epilepsy Program**
Clinical care, epilepsy education, and family support resources.
- **Ontario Caregiver Organization**
Resources and support for caregivers navigating complex medical care and advocacy.

Please visit each organization's website for up-to-date information and services.

SCHOOL ADVOCACY AND SAFETY PLANNING

These topics can help families work with schools to support safety, inclusion, and success.

- **PPM 161 and School Medical Support Policies**
Learn more about the provincial policy that guides how schools support students with medical conditions.
- **Plans of Care and Individualized Safety Planning**
Understand how individualized plans support your child's health and participation at school.
- **Seizure Action Planning and Emergency Response**
Work with your school to develop clear action plans and emergency procedures.
- **Accessibility and Accommodation Supports**
Explore supports and accommodations that help create safe and inclusive learning environments.
- **School Communication and Transition Planning**
Build strong communication and plan for transitions between grades, schools, and programs.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 1** The public consultation period closes.
- 2** Feedback submissions are reviewed by the Ministry of Education.
- 3** The Ministry considers feedback as part of the policy review process.
- 4** Further updates or decisions may be shared publicly at a later date.

LEARN MORE

For more information, resources, and updates, visit:

safeatschoolontario.ca | [@safeatschoolontario](https://twitter.com/safeatschoolontario)

**One Goal. One Policy. PPM 161.
Safe Schools for Medically Fragile Children
with Uncontrolled Epilepsy.**

Your experience. Your voice. Real change.