



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Educating School Nurses about Diabetes: A Priority in Virginia** *Lions Club International Foundation Approves Grant for Diabetes Education*

**Fairfax, Virginia. (May 12, 2021)**—A dynamic pilot project that was originally funded in 2019 to benefit children with diabetes attending over 500 Northern Virginia Schools in 40 school districts proves successful. In July we will enter our third year of providing e-learning modules to both public and private schools throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

According to Kathy Gold, RN, Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, working with the Lions Clubs District 24-L, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Diabetes Council (VDC): “The LEARNS (Lions Empowering and Aiding Regional Nurses in Schools) professional education program will provide valuable training to nurses and staff caring for students living with diabetes”.

Both Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes require unique therapies during the school hours, Gold stressed that: “Proper care of these students entrusted to the care of school personnel is essential.”

The VDC proposed the project to provide an E-learning training course for all school nurses and school personnel in the 510 Virginia Elementary Schools within the boundaries of Lions District 24-L initially and continue to expand to the entire Commonwealth of Virginia over a 5-year period.

#### Overview of Goals:

- To provide a comprehensive diabetes training program is to provide a safe school environment for students with diabetes where they can fully participate in the school experience.
- To ensure the safety of every child with diabetes in every school system across the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- To eliminate disparities and provide equal education, support, and access in all school districts.

- Standardize up-to-date training in a constantly evolving field.
- Provide curriculum on healthy lifestyle recommendations, glucose meters, carbohydrate counting, insulin pumps, continuous glucose monitors, medications, emergency situations, and preventing complications.
- Empower the school health personnel and support staff to assist in this care during the school day.
- Implement the Diabetes Medical Management Plan (DMMP) orders from the child's healthcare provider.

School Health Specialist, Tracy White, explained, The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to collaborate with professional organizations and community stakeholders to obtain funding for specialized training of school staff. "These efforts keep our students with diabetes safe, healthy, and ready to learn." It will not be mandated in-person training, but instead be offered as an online training program for self-paced education available throughout the school year. The LEARNS Project will provide licenses for each campus to use for an unlimited amount of staff.

In addition to the LCIF and Lions District 24-L, local Lions Clubs, the VDC and the Virginia Chapter of the Association of Diabetes Care and Educator Specialists have provided funding. The team has proven the educational offerings justify ongoing funding. Donate to this worthy cause at [LEARNS Project – Virginia Diabetes Council](#)  
Visit the LEARNS Grant project online for more information and to advocate for your school at [LEARNS Project – Virginia Diabetes Council](#) Email the team directly at [schools@virginiadiabetes.org](mailto:schools@virginiadiabetes.org)

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