

# students with limbic encephalitis

## What is limbic encephalitis?

Limbic encephalitis (LE) is a condition that causes inflammation in the limbic system and other parts of the brain. The limbic system controls memory, learning, and emotions. Symptoms usually develop over several weeks or months, but they can appear suddenly over a few days. Early diagnosis and treatment can improve outcomes. However, diagnosis is often delayed. Recovery typically requires a combination of cognitive, speech, and physical therapy. There are two main types of LE:

- **Infectious Encephalitis** – caused by a virus or bacteria directly infecting the limbic area of the brain.
- **Autoimmune Encephalitis** – caused by the immune system mistakenly attacking the brain. This type often begins with changes in behavior and personality. Symptoms may worsen over time and can include agitation, aggression, seizures, and involuntary movements.

The severity of symptoms varies. Many children require extended hospital stays and long-term therapy. Recovery is slow, and some children may have lasting cognitive or behavioral challenges.

## How can limbic encephalitis affect a student at school?

The most common school-related challenges for students with limbic encephalitis include:

- **Academic:** cognitive impairments, executive functioning challenges, memory, attention, organization
- **Social/Emotional:** social withdrawal and isolation, difficulty building peer relationships
- **Physical:** severe headaches, sudden fever or changes in blood pressure or heart rate, drowsiness or fatigue, confusion or disorientation, seizures, sensory or movement difficulties, involuntary movements

## How can schools support students with limbic encephalitis?

### Academic

- Start academic interventions under **Section 504** or **IDEA** (Other Health Impairment).
- Conduct **evaluations** for speech, OT/PT, vision/hearing, assistive technology, as needed.
- Offer **homebound** or **intermittent homebound** instruction for extended absences.
- Use **organizational tools** such as checklists, planners, and visual schedules.
- Assign a manageable **workload** focused on **quality over quantity**.
- Allow **extra time** for assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests during flare ups.

## Social and Emotional

- Provide **counseling or emotional** support as needed.
- Provide **staff training** and share relevant information about the condition.

## Physical

- Offer unrestricted **clinic/nurse passes**.
- Allow **elevator access** if stairs pose a safety risk.
- Develop an **Individualized Health Plan (IHP)** to manage seizures or other medical needs.

## More Resources

- **Encephalitis International**  
[encephalitis.info](http://encephalitis.info)
- **MedlinePlus - Encephalitis**  
[medlineplus.gov/encephalitis.html](http://medlineplus.gov/encephalitis.html)
- **Nemours Kids Health**  
[kidshealth.org](http://kidshealth.org)

## SCHOOL SERVICES

For more information, visit [childrens.com/school-services](http://childrens.com/school-services)

