

My name is Kevin Hooper. My wife and I have lived in Brunswick for the past couple years. Prior, we lived in Falmouth for 30 years. Our son, Carson, attended the Falmouth K-12 public schools between the years 1997 and 2010. Carson was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 10 after he suffered his first seizure at a Falmouth Community Program summer camp. Despite our aggressive efforts through many medications and even surgery at Boston Children's Hospital, Carson continued to have seizures through his school years.

We were fortunate that the Falmouth school nurses were attentive to Carson's needs. In particular, they understood how to treat him when he had a debilitating headache or absence seizure and needed to rest in a quiet space. He had only one seizure during class. During the event, a classmate who was a volunteer for the Falmouth Fire Department took charge of getting him safely to the ground until the nurse arrived. We will be forever grateful for everyone's support during his school years.

Carson was active in the school robotics program (and started the middle school Lego League team as a high school senior). He worked at Hannaford in West Falmouth and volunteered for Falmouth Food Pantry while attending SMCC.

Carson died from SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death from Epilepsy) in 2017. As his family, we continue to participate in EFNE (Epilepsy Foundation of New England) activities because there is a tremendous need to educate the public on the particular needs of people with epilepsy. We wholeheartedly support the proposed Seizure Safe Schools legislation to increase awareness and readiness in our schools statewide. Every Maine student and school staff member with epilepsy deserves the quality of care, awareness, and medical knowledge that Carson was afforded at the Falmouth schools.

Kevin Hooper, Brunswick ME
Katherine Hooper, Brunswick ME
Chris Hooper, Waterford CT
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