

School Board Implementation Tips

Tool

Resource: Creating Asthma Friendly Environments

In accordance with Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools, 2015) and Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 161: Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy) in Schools (2018), school boards must establish and maintain a policy to support students with asthma. The purpose of this tip sheet is to outline activities and implementation tips to create asthma friendly schools at the board level.

Establish a process to identify students with asthma:

Add a question to all registration forms that elicits whether or not the student has been told by a health provider that they have asthma and/or uses asthma medication/inhalers.

Supporting a student with asthma is a collaborative effort:

Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 161: Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy) in Schools, 2018 requires that school boards work collaboratively with families to develop a *Plan of Care* to help students with asthma. The *Plan of Care* is a form that helps empower and support students with prevalent medical conditions, such as asthma. This form requires participation from the school boards, school staff, educators, parents/guardians and students.

• Easy access to asthma medication:

- o Ryan's Law requires schools to support easy access to life saving asthma medication.
- Ryan's Law requires schools to support easy access to life saving asthma medication. Ensuring students with asthma have quick and easy access to their reliever asthma inhaler (usually a blue
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inhaler) allows them to treat and relieve their asthma symptoms promptly and prevent the need for 9-1-1 calls and death caused by asthma. Most students aged seven years or older are capable of deciding when medication is required and have the skills to administer their medication properly.

 For students who are unable to carry their own inhaler, the medication should be available within easy reach, such as the classroom.

• A process for handling worsening asthma:

Ensure that the school board has a policy that clearly outlines the process for handling worsening asthma and asthma attacks within your schools.

- A mechanism to identify and reduce common asthma triggers within the schools:
 - Establish a process to identify and reduce common asthma triggers in schools.
 - Support the installation of HVAC systems that provide clean indoor air.
- Support for students with asthma to participate in physical activity and play:

Ensure all students with asthma are encouraged and supported to fully participate in all school sponsored activities, including physical activities and outdoor play.

 Opportunities for asthma education (For example, school staff, parents/guardians, students and volunteers):

Advocate and provide support for all members of the school community to participate in asthma education initiatives and asthma awareness activities.

• Collaborate with others (For example, health care providers, public health, parents/guardians and community partners) to create asthma friendly settings:

School board staff should meet with administrators and health care professionals to discuss policy changes, current practices and updates on asthma information annually.