

DeKalb Eastern Community School District

POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA IN SCHOOLS

RATIONALE

Asthma is the most common chronic disease of childhood and is the leading cause of preventable hospitalizations. About 5 percent of children under 15 will experience an asthma attack each year. It is also the leading chronic disease cause of school absences, resulting in over 14 million absences each year nationally. However, there is hope that with proper management, asthma can be controlled. Children with properly managed asthma can participate in normal activities and not have symptoms during or miss school. Schools cannot achieve their educational mission if students with asthma cannot appropriately manage their asthma.

OBJECTIVES

- Appropriate staff will be aware of students with diagnosed asthma.
- Procedures relating to the use of inhalers are consistent throughout the schools.
- To detail procedures to be followed if a child has an asthma attack.
- To ensure records are kept up to date and are available to all relevant staff.
- To make parents aware of this policy and the resulting responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOLS

- I. Provide appropriate health services for students with asthma.
- II. Provide asthma education and awareness programs for appropriate staff. If necessary, asthma education will be provided to students, also.
- III. Provide all students with asthma full participation in the life of the school.
- IV. Notify parents if their child has required his/her inhaler to be administered during the day.
- V. Provide an accessible, safe place for the storage of inhalers kept in the schools.
- VI. Take actions to reduce asthma trigger exposure to promote a safe and healthy school environment by the development/adoption of the following policies and practices:
 - a. A tobacco-free school 24-hours per day, 7 days a week, on all school property.
 - b. Prevent indoor and outdoor air quality problems by implementing best practice policies for common issues such as: preventative maintenance on heating/cooling systems; construction and remodeling projects; bus idling; integrated pest management techniques; pesticide application notification; cleaning practices; chemical and solution storage; and presence of warm-blooded animals in the classroom.
- VII. Provide students with asthma-safe, enjoyable physical education and activity opportunities.
- VIII. Coordinate school, family, and community efforts to better manage asthma symptoms and reduce school absences among students with asthma.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- I. Notify the school that their child has asthma.
 - II. Supply their child with an inhaler and complete the appropriate permission form.
 - III. Notify the school if their child's medication is to be administered by a member of staff.
 - IV. Complete, annually, an A.S.M.A. Plan.
 - V. Notify the school of any change(s) in their child's condition and/or medication.
- Children who have been identified should have an inhaler in school. Parents are responsible for supplying an inhaler and/or additional medication and supplies for their child.