

Policy Development for the Management of Asthma in School Settings

Most youngsters spend many hours of their days at school and school-related activities. It is the responsibility of school systems to plan for and maintain a safe environment for all students during school hours, school transport, as well as during school related activities.

A **policy** is a set of rules designed to reach certain objectives which aid in decision making. Comprehensive health care policies and procedures for students with asthma help support and maintain a safe school environment for students with asthma while allowing them to enjoy the same access to education and fully participate in all school-sponsored activities as do others.

When writing school policies regarding the care and management of students with asthma, applicable federal and state law requirements must be met. Indiana has applicable laws regarding the care of students with asthma:

- **IC 20-33-8-13 Possession and Self-Administration of Medication**
This law applies to all school corporations and allows students with a chronic disease or medical condition to possess and self-administer emergency medication for their medical condition which has been prescribed by a licensed healthcare provider. This law requires that parents have annually filed authorization and a healthcare provider statement confirming that the student has a condition for which the physician has prescribed medication, the student has been instructed on how to self-administer, and that the condition requires emergency medication.
- **IC 20-34-4-4.5 Stock Emergency Medication**
This law which was updated in July of 2017 allows all public, charter, and accredited nonpublic schools to stock emergency albuterol, epinephrine and/or naloxone medications if said schools which to do so-note that this is not a school requirement.
- **IC 16-41-37.5 Indoor Air Quality In Schools**
This law went into effect in 2011 and is under the jurisdiction of the Indiana State Department of Health. The law defines all public and non-public school (not located in a home) requirements and states that a school inspection can be done by the State Health Department upon request of a community member or when a state inspector deems it necessary.

Suggestions for Indiana School Districts to Consider When Developing Policies and Procedures

When composing school district policy and procedures addressing the school's role in asthma management, the following components should be considered for incorporation:

- School Nurse Availability During the School Day
- Development of the Asthma Medical Management Plan or Asthma Action Plan
- Development of the Emergency Action Plan
- Development of the Individual Health Care Plan
- Roles of Volunteer Health Aides During School and School-Related Activities
- Provision of Staff Training and Education
- School System Planning for Emergency Response
- Management of Asthma in the Classroom
- Management of Asthma During School Activities Outside of the Classroom
- Student Self-Management Provisions
- Responsibilities of Parents
- Responsibilities of Students