

*This sample policy, developed by the Ontario Educational Services Corporation (OESC), can be used by school boards as a starting point to develop their own asthma policies which are required by Ryan’s Law, 2015. When developing their policies, school boards should consult with their legal counsel to ensure they are meeting their statutory obligations.*

\_\_\_\_\_ District School Board

---

**ASTHMA POLICY**

**Policy No:**

**Date:**

**Review Date:**

---

**POLICY STATEMENT**

In accordance with *Ryan’s Law – Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools – 2015*, it is the policy of the \_\_\_\_\_ District School Board to establish and maintain a policy for students diagnosed with asthma.

The safety of students with a medical condition such as asthma is a shared responsibility of the board, school, family, health care provider and community partners.

The policy outlines the board’s commitment to students with asthma.

**Definitions**

**What is Asthma?**

According to the Ontario Lung Association, asthma is a very common chronic (long-term) lung disease that can make it hard to breathe.

People with asthma have sensitive airways that react to triggers. There are many different types of triggers for example poor air quality, mold, dust, pollen, viral infections, animals, smoke and cold air. Symptoms of asthma are variable and can include coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. The symptoms can range from mild to severe and sometimes could be life threatening.

*For the purposes of this document, the following words have the following definitions:*

**Emergency Medication**

“Emergency Medication” refers to medication that is administered by a staff member to a student at the time of an asthma exacerbation - for example - reliever inhaler or stand-by-medication.

## **Medication**

“Medication” refers to medications that are prescribed by a health care provider and, by necessity, may be administered to a student, or taken by the student during school hours or school related activities.

## **Immunity**

*The Act to Protect Pupils with Asthma* states that “No action or other proceeding for damages shall be commenced against an employee for an act or omission done or omitted by the employee in good faith in the execution or intended execution of any duty or power under this Act.”

## **Requirements**

The board shall:

- ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications;
- identify asthma triggers in classrooms, common school areas and in planning field trips and implement strategies to reduce the risk of exposure;
- establish a communication plan to share information on asthma to parents/guardians, students, employees and include any other person who has direct contact with a student with asthma;
- provide asthma education and regular training opportunities on recognizing and preventing asthma triggers, recognizing when symptoms are worsening and managing asthma exacerbations for all employees and others who are in direct contact with students on a regular basis;
- require that every school principal establish a process to identify students with asthma at time of registration or following diagnosis and gather necessary asthma related information from the parents/guardians and student;
- require that every school principal develop an individual student asthma management plan for each student diagnosed with asthma, based on the recommendation of the student’s health care provider;
- require that every school principal maintain a file for each student diagnosed with asthma. The file main contain personal medical information, treatment plans and/or other pertinent information about the student, if that information is obtained with the consent of the student or the parent/guardian, in accordance with applicable legislation, including

relevant privacy legislation. This file shall also include current emergency contact information;

- require that every school principal inform school board personnel and others who are in direct contact on a regular basis with a student with asthma about the contents of the student's asthma management plan;
- review asthma policy as part of its regular policy review cycle; and
- include the asthma policy in the board policies posted on the school and board web sites.

Roles and Responsibilities to implement these policy requirements are in the board's Administrative Procedures - Asthma Management Plan.

#### **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

- Ryan's Law, 2015 – *Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools*
- Education Act Section 265- Duties of Principal
- Regulation 298 s20 – Duties of Teachers