

POLICY

SECTION:	SCHOOL OPERATIONS	POLICY:	G-37
TOPIC:	ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS	PAGE:	Page 1 of 1
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All students are entitled to a safe and healthy learning environment. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) will support schools in maintaining an environment that reduces the risks for all students who suffer from asthma. This policy is in accordance with Bill 20, *Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools), 2015*. It is the policy of the DSBN to establish and maintain a policy for students diagnosed with asthma.

Asthma is a very common chronic (long-term) lung disease that can make it difficult to breathe. People with asthma have sensitive airways that may react to triggers such as: fragrance/scented products, 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.

The safety of students with a medical condition such as asthma is a shared responsibility. The responsibilities are shared amongst the DSBN, school, family, health care provider and community partners. This policy outlines the DSBN's commitment to students with asthma.

DSBN will ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications. This includes supporting the well-being of all students with asthma. If a parent/guardian requests on behalf of their child/ward or if a student 16 years of age or older, indicates to the School Administrator, in writing, that the student is at risk of asthma, then the student should be allowed to carry his or her asthma medication after all necessary processes (i.e., forms, etc.) are completed.

In addition, the DSBN will identify asthma triggers in classrooms, common school areas and in planning field trips and implement strategies to reduce the risk of exposure. The DSBN will also share information on asthma such as recognizing and preventing asthma triggers, recognizing when symptoms are worsening and managing asthma exacerbations to parents/guardians, students, staff and include any other person who has direct contact with a student with asthma.

References

Policy G-15: Student Medical Information

Policy G-16: Administering Emergency Health Services to Students

Policy G-17: Provision of Health Support Services to Students

Administrative Procedure 3-12: Administering Health Support Services to Students

Administrative Procedure 3-24: Emergency Action Plan for Students with Medical Needs

Administrative Procedure 3-31: Asthma Friendly Schools