

# **SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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*Section*                   SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

*Policy Name*           RYAN'S LAW: ENSURING ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS                   542

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*Board Approved: April 19, 2016*

*Reviewed: April 5, 2016*

*Review By: December 2021*

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## **POLICY**

In accordance with Ryan's Law – Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools – 2015, it is the policy of the Superior-Greenstone 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.

This policy outlines the board's commitment to students with asthma.

## **Definitions**

**"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. Symptoms can range from mild to severe and sometimes could be life threatening.

**"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"** 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."

## **PROCEDURES**

Under the regulation the following responsibilities are outlined

### **1. Responsibility of Board Administration**

The board shall:

- a) Ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications;

- b) Ensure that all schools conduct an audit of the school grounds and identify asthma triggers in classrooms, common school areas and in planning field trips and implement strategies to reduce the risk of exposure;
- c) Provide annual training reminders to all staff regarding the delivery of asthma education and provide 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;
- d) Review the asthma policy as part of its regular policy review cycle; and
- e) Include the asthma policy in the board policies posted on the school and board web sites.

## **2. Responsibility of School Principals**

- 2.1 School principals will 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;
- 2.2 School principals will 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;
- 2.3 School principals will establish a process to develop an individual student asthma management plan for each student diagnosed with asthma, based on the recommendation of the student's health care provider;
- 2.4 School principals will maintain a file for each student diagnosed with asthma. The file may 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;
- 2.5 School principals will 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;

## **3.0 Process and Prevention**

School principals will review local data related to the number of incidents involving asthma attacks to ensure that proper precautions were taken in terms of the learning environment and that responses to the asthma attack were appropriate. In short, that all preventative and reactive measures were reasonable and responsible

### **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

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