

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

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

Board Approved: February 23, 2021 Reviewed: February 9, 2021 Review By: December 2025
April 19, 2016 April 5, 2016

~~The Superior Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB) is committed to building an inclusive community where every student, family, and staff member feels respected, valued, and connected. We foster wellbeing by creating safe, caring, and supportive environments that promote mental, emotional, and social health. We believe that learning should spark curiosity and joy, and we strive to nurture innovative, engaging, and creative learning experiences that inspire every learner to reach their full potential.~~

~~All Board policies shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with applicable legislation, including the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Board's commitments to equity, inclusion, accessibility, and reconciliation.~~

POLICY

~~In accordance with Ryan's Law—Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools—2015, The Superior-Greenstone District School Board is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and healthy learning environment for all students. This includes ensuring that students diagnosed with asthma are supported through prevention, education, and appropriate emergency response procedures, in accordance with Ryan's Law (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 and well-being of students with a medical condition such as asthma is a shared responsibility of among the board, schools, families, health care providers and community partners.~~

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

SCOPE

~~This policy applies to all SGDSB schools, programs, transportation services, and Board-operated facilities. It governs practices for all students and staff identified as having asthma.~~

Definitions

DEFINITIONS

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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 such as. 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.

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Plan of Care - An individualized plan developed collaboratively with the student, parent/guardian, and health care provider that outlines triggers, symptoms, medications, and emergency procedures.

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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.

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

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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

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Under the regulation the following responsibilities are outlined

1. Responsibility of Board Administration

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The board shall:

1.1a) Ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications;

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1.2b) 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;

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1.3c) Provide annual mandatory training reminders to all staff and regular access to asthma education resources for employees and volunteers, 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;

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1.4 d) Review the asthma policy as part of its regular policy review cycle; and

1.5 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 regular 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 create a Plan of Care management plan for each student diagnosed with asthma, in collaboration with parents/guardians and 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 emergency contacts. and/or other pertinent information about the student. This information shall be collected and stored in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). 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 regular direct contact on a regular basis with a student with asthma about the contents of the student's asthma management plan/Plan of Care;

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.

REFERENCES/DOCUMENTS

- Ryan's Law, 2015 – Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools
- Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 161 – Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions in Schools
- Education Act Section 265- Duties of Principal
- Regulation 298 s20 – Duties of Teachers
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