

## District Policy on Asthma Education

WHEREAS asthma has a severe impact on schools, specifically:

- *An estimated 27.6 million Americans have been diagnosed with asthma.<sup>1</sup>*
- *An estimated 8.9 million Americans under age 18 have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives.<sup>2</sup>*
- *Asthma accounts for 14 million lost school days annually and is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic conditions.<sup>3</sup>*
- *Asthma accounts for one in six of all pediatric emergency visits in the United States.<sup>4</sup>*
- *Asthma episodes can happen anytime and can be life-threatening, requiring emergency response by staff.*

AND

WHEREAS, asthma can be self-managed and improved by asthma education; and

WHEREAS, all school personnel must be prepared to support or administer emergency response to an asthma episode by a student or staff member, and must be trained to do so;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_\_\_ (district name) shall require that annual asthma education will be mandatory for all students, faculty and staff.

<sup>1</sup> Akinbami LJ, Scheendorf, KC. Trends in childhood asthma: prevalence, health care utilization, and mortality. *Pediatrics*, 2002; 110(2):315-322.

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Health Statistics. Raw Data from the *National Health Interview Survey*, US, 1997-2000. (Analysis by the American Lung Association Epidemiology and Statistics Unit, Using SPSS and SUDAAN software).

<sup>3</sup> Surveillance for Asthma—United States, 1980-1999. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*. March 29, 2002. Vol. 51, No. 55-1.

<sup>4</sup> Popovic JC. 1999 National Hospital Discharge Survey: Annual Summary with Detailed Diagnosis and Procedure Data. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat*, 2001; 13(151):21, Table 10.