



# Carbondale Area School District

103 Brooklyn Street  
Carbondale, PA 18407



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## SECTION: PUPILS

### TITLE: POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS

The Carbondale Area School District shall permit students to possess asthma inhalers and to self-administer the prescribed medication used to treat asthma when such is physician/parent-authorized.

Possession and use of asthma inhalers by students shall be in accordance with Act 187 of 2004 and the Carbondale Area School District policy.

Asthma inhaler shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.

Self-administration shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler during school hours, the Carbondale Area School District shall require the following:

1. A written request/permission from the parent/guardian along with a medication order from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
2. A statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the school and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
3. A written statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states:
  - a. Name of the drug.
  - b. Prescribed dosage.
  - c. Times medication is to be taken.
  - d. Length of time medication is prescribed.
  - e. Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential.
  - f. Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication.
  - g. Emergency response.
  - h. If student is qualified and able to self-administer the medication.

The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler is intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students.

The student shall notify the school nurse or designee immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in written warning issued to parent/guardian and child with any subsequent violations resulting in immediate confiscation of the asthma inhaler and medication and loss of privileges.

The Carbondale Area School District reserves the right to require a statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.

A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the capability of self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.

To self-administer medication, the student must complete, sign, and date the student agreement form in the presence of the school nurse and be able to:

1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
2. Student is capable of identifying individual medications by name.
3. Student is knowledgeable of purpose of individual medications.
4. Student is able to identify/associate specific symptom occurrence and need for medication administration.
5. Student is capable/knowledgeable of medication dosage.
6. Student is knowledgeable about method of medication administration.
7. Student is able to state side effects/adverse reactions to this medication.
8. Student is knowledgeable of how to access assistance for self if needed in an emergency.
9. Student is able to identify safety issues: no sharing of medications with others; need for safe storage of medication; consistent placement of medication

The district administration, in conjunction with the school nurse, shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers and self-administration of prescribed medication.

The school shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the policy and procedures governing student possession and use of asthma inhalers.

When a student initially brings an asthma inhaler to the school, the school nurse shall be responsible to complete the following:

- { } Assess student's readiness for self-administration of oral medications and/or peak flow monitoring.
- { } Develop a School Asthma Emergency Plan.
- { } Obtain the required written request and statements from the parent/guardian and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, which shall be kept on file in the office of the: School Nurse
- { } Review pertinent information with the students and or parent/guardian, specifically the information contained on the statement submitted by the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- { } Determine the student's ability to self-administrator medication and the need for care and supervision using approved metered dose inhaler technique checklist.
- { } Maintain an individual medication log for all students possessing asthma inhalers.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1401, 1414.1

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 7.13

Adopted: