

# ASTHMA MANAGEMENT – RYAN’S LAW

Ryan’s Law, an Act to protect pupils with asthma, came into effect April 30, 2015. This Ontario law is intended to protect pupils with asthma by ensuring asthma friendly schools. Ryan’s Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an asthma policy and every school principal to develop individual plans for any student with asthma. It also stipulates that school principals must allow a student to carry his or her own asthma medication if the student has his or her parent’s or guardian’s permission. If the student is 16 years or older, he or she is not required to have his or her parent’s or guardian’s permission.

In order for the school to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students and to act in the best interest of your son or daughter during an asthma episode we invite and welcome your cooperation and support by providing the following:

- Inform the school if your son/daughter has asthma and their triggers.
- Encourage your son/daughter to carry their inhaler with them at all times or to have their inhaler in close proximity at all times (e.g. field trips).
- Ensure your son/daughter knows how and when to use their reliever medication properly prior to coming to school.
- Consider providing your son/daughter with a medic alert identification.

## ASTHMA ACTION PLAN

The individual Student Asthma Action Plan provides the school with the information needed for us to act in the best interest of a student during an asthma episode. If you wish to provide us with an Action Plan, blank copies are available at the school office.

At the secondary level students are at a stage (physical and intellectual conditions permitting) where they are able to take on more responsibility for their asthma condition. Please go over the following student responsibilities with your son/daughter.

- To carry or have in close proximity their in-haler medication at all times (e.g. at school, during physical activity, off site on field trips).
- To know how and when to use their reliever medication safely.
- To know the triggers to their asthma, and avoid where possible.
- To inform relevant teachers/coaches/supervisors that they have asthma, especially if they have exercise induced asthma or they are experiencing asthma symptoms.
- To tell their friends about their asthma and how they can help.
- To never to remove themselves to a secluded spot (e.g. washroom) when they are experience asthma symptoms. Inform a teacher/staff member or responsible adult.
- To inform their parents if they are using the reliever inhaler more than 4 times per week (other than before exercise).

