



NUMBER:	ST: 11B
EFFECTIVE:	June 28, 2016
AMENDED:	
RELATED POLICIES:	See References
REPEALS:	
REVIEW DATE:	2019-2020

1.0 OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 In accordance with *Ryan’s Law – Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools – 2015*, it is the policy of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board to establish and maintain a policy for students diagnosed with asthma as well as a framework to support administrative procedure PR ST:11B that provides direction to school staff to assist students with asthma.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The policy outlines the Board’s commitment to students with asthma.

2.0 DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Asthma:** As defined by 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. The symptoms can range from mild to severe and sometimes could be life threatening.
- 2.2 **Emergency Medication:** “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.
- 2.3 **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.
- 2.4 **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.”

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- 3.1 The Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools – Ryan’s Law Policy and Procedure are intended to ensure school staff and others in contact with students who have asthma are prepared to handle an emergency situation.

Neither the Board nor the school can be expected to create an entirely trigger-free environment, but they are, with the cooperation of parents/guardians, responsible for reducing risk, and having a plan in place that allows the school community to react appropriately when an emergency occurs.

- 3.2 This Policy shall be administered in conjunction with the objectives and guiding principles of A:14 Promoting and Supporting Equity & Inclusion Within a Catholic Community.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES:

The Director of Education will develop procedures to meet this policy’s objectives that include the following:

- 4.1 Ensure that all students have easy access to their prescribed reliever inhaler(s) medications.
- 4.2 Identify asthma triggers in classrooms, common school areas and in planning field trips and implement strategies to reduce the risk of exposure.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Provide asthma education and 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.
- 4.5 Require that every school principal 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.
- 4.6 Require that every school principal develop an Individual Student Asthma Management Plan for each student diagnosed with asthma, based on the recommendation of the student’s health care provider.
- 4.7 Require that every school principal maintain a file for each student diagnosed with asthma. The file main 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.

- 4.8 Require that every school principal 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.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY:

- 5.1 All Board employees and others in regular contact with students should be familiar with the School Board’s Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools – Ryan’s Law Policy and Procedure and abide by their provisions.
- 5.2 Students who have asthma and parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring the information in the student’s file is updated at least once yearly.
- 5.3 Students and parents/guardians in the school community are asked to cooperate in abiding by the Board’s policies and procedures as well as the school’s Individual Student Asthma Management Plan.
- 5.4 If an employee has reason to believe that a pupil is experiencing an asthma exacerbation, the employee may administer asthma medication to the pupil for the treatment of the exacerbation, even if there is no preauthorization to do so.

6.0 REVIEW AND EVALUATION:

- 6.1 The effectiveness of this policy shall be assessed through Trustee, staff and community satisfaction measures.
- 6.2 The policy will be reviewed during the 2019-2020 policy review cycle.

7.0 REFERENCES:

Ryan’s Law, 2015 – *Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools*
Education Act Section 265- Duties of Principal
Regulation 298 s.20 Duties of Teachers
Sabrina’s Law, 2005
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guidelines
Ministry of Education PPM 81 Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings
Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards - Canadian School Boards Association, 2001
Anaphylaxis in Schools and other settings © 2005, 2009
Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Lung Association – www.on.lung.ca/resources

Procedure ST:11B Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools, Ryan’s Law
Procedure ST:11A Anaphylaxis Procedure (Including Administration of Emergency Medication)

POLICY ST: 11B ENSURING ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS – RYAN’S LAW

Policy ST:11 Student Health Support (Including Medication Administration at School)
Procedure ST:11 Student Health Support (Including Medication Administration at School)
Policy A:14 Promoting and Supporting Equity & Inclusion Within a Catholic Community
Policy A:30 Privacy
Policy SC:04 Field Trips
Policy SC:13 Release of Student Information
Policy ST: 15 Accidents/Students
Policy ST:20 Collection of Personal Information