

Illinois law (Public Act 096-1460) allows children with asthma to self-carry and self-administer their asthma medication while at school. This law can enhance the quality of life, and even save the life, of a child with asthma. Parents should be aware of a few simple facts about this law.



WHAT MATERIALS NEED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE SCHOOL FOR A CHILD TO SELF-CARRY AND SELF-ADMINISTER THEIR ASTHMA MEDICATION?

1. Written permission from the child's parent or guardian; and
2. The prescription label, which must contain the name of the medication, the prescribed dosage, and the time or circumstances when the medication should be used.



IS A PHYSICIAN'S NOTE REQUIRED?

No. Since 2010, the only forms required for a student to self-administer their asthma medication:

1. A note from their parent or guardian; and
2. A copy of their prescription. Are there any age requirements for a child to be able to self-administer their asthma medication? No, any child with asthma is eligible.



ARE THERE DIFFERENCES IN ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICIES BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

Yes. While the self-administration law applies to all schools in Illinois, each district may have unique asthma management policies. It is important to be aware of your district's specific policy and to ensure that your child has a 504 plan and an Asthma Action Plan on file.

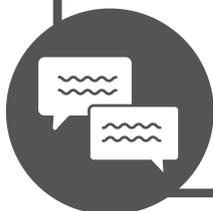
WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE MY CHILD TO SELF-ADMINISTER MEDICATION DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?



Begin letting your child use his or her quick-relief inhaler at least six months before starting school. Make sure to talk to your child's medical provider to ensure proper inhaler technique is being taught. By practicing together, you can correct any mistakes, ensure your child is using the inhaler correctly and make sure your child does not need an adult's help.

BE SURE TO TEACH YOUR CHILD:

- To always keep his or her asthma medication nearby;
- What triggers his or her asthma and how to avoid these triggers at school;
- How to recognize asthma signs and symptoms;
- How to tell an adult when asthma symptoms start;
- When to use quick-relief medication; and
- How to use an inhaler with a spacer.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

See RHA's What You Need to Know on "Spacers and Metered Dose Inhalers" for more information.

