

Help Schools Become Better Equipped to Handle Asthma Emergencies

Support HB 6333

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In the event of an asthma emergency, school staff need a quick-reference document to follow proper protocol. The development of an asthma episode emergency response protocol will assist schools in handling asthma emergencies. Currently, 24 states require schools to have emergency protocols for asthma.

- In Illinois, nearly 14% of children have asthma, but over 76% of those children do not have their asthma under control.
- Asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism.
- Uncontrolled asthma can result in increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
- School staff play an important role in protecting students with asthma.

HB 6333 – Amends the School Code ([105 ILCS 5/22-30](#)) to ensure that:

- The State Board of Education, in consultation with statewide organizations with expertise in asthma, develop a model asthma episode emergency response protocol.
- School districts adopt an asthma episode emergency response protocol that includes the components of the State Board's model.
- School districts annually request from the parent/guardian of a student with asthma, an asthma action plan completed by the child's healthcare provider.
- Every two years, school personnel who work with pupils shall complete an in-person or online asthma training program.

HB 6333 – Why is Management of Asthma so Important

- Because asthma is among the most common chronic conditions impacting students at school, all school staff members must understand the asthma management policies and procedures for their school in addition to being able to recognize an asthma episode and respond in the event of an emergency.
- Currently, asthma is grossly under-reported in schools. Requesting an asthma action plan for students diagnosed with asthma can open the door to ensure that appropriate care and supports are provided at school. Furthermore, requesting an asthma action plan will also help schools become more vigilant about proper asthma documentation.

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Supporters (List in Progress)

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Illinois State Medical Society

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