

# Pennsbury School District

## School Board Policy

Effective Date	Supersedes Index No.	Index No.
<b>4/14/11</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>210.2</b>

**Title:** Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers

**Purpose:** This policy addresses the possession and use of asthma inhalers during school hours.

**Authority:** The School Board recognizes that the use of asthma inhalers by students while in school may be necessary under certain circumstances. Possession and use of asthma inhalers by students shall be in accordance with state law and School Board policy. Students are permitted to possess asthma inhalers and to self-administer the prescribed medication used to treat asthma, in accordance with this policy.

**Definitions:** “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.

**Policy:** Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler during school hours, the following are required:

1. A written request from the parent or guardian that the school complies with the order of the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
2. A statement from the parent or guardian acknowledging that the

school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the School District 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 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. It is necessary for the student to carry the medication and that the student is capable of self-administration.

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

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

The 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 or 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 for self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.

To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:

1. Respond to and visually recognize his or her name.
2. Identify his or her medication.

3. Demonstrate the proper technique for self-administering medication to the CSN.
4. Sign his or her medication sheet to acknowledge having taken the medication.
5. Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration.

The Chief Executive Officer or Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers and self-administration of prescribed medication.

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

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

1. Obtain the required written request and statements from the parent or guardian, and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, which shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.
2. Review pertinent information with the student and/or parent or guardian, specifically the information contained on the statement submitted by the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
3. Determine the student's ability to self-administer medication and the need for care and supervision.
4. Maintain an individual medication log for all students possessing asthma inhalers.

**Responsible**

**Administrator:** Director of Administrative Services