



Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
dph.ga.gov

November 20, 2015

Dear School Superintendent,

The Georgia Asthma Control Program, within the Georgia Department of Public Health, is pleased to present *Georgia's Asthma-Friendly Schools Toolkit and Recognition Guidance*. This toolkit provides information and resources to facilitate the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of comprehensive asthma-friendly school policies in Georgia K-12 schools.

Research shows that children with persistent asthma miss more school days. In 2010, 58 percent of school aged children missed 1 or more days of school because of their asthma. Excessive absenteeism can lead to poor student achievement, and lower psychological, social, and educational adjustment. Schools can support asthma self-management in children by providing asthma education for students and staff, communicating asthma emergency procedures, and adopting asthma-friendly policies.

To that end, the Georgia Asthma Control Program is launching a statewide Asthma-Friendly School Recognition Program for schools that adopt and implement at least the following policy components: School Asthma Policy, 100% Tobacco Free School Policy, No Idling School Bus Policy, Medication Policy, and Integrated Pest Management Policy. Schools will be recognized by being acknowledged on the Georgia Department of Public Health Asthma Control Program's webpage, the Georgia Asthma Coalition's webpage, and receiving technical assistance for training and policy implementation through the Georgia Asthma Control Program and other partners.

We hope that you will find this toolkit and resources helpful. Thank you for all that you do to improve asthma control among Georgia's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. O'Connor'.

Jean O'Connor, JD, DrPH
Chronic Disease Prevention Director
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



We Protect Lives.