

SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

Under the Safe Schools Act, children with asthma are able to self-administer life-saving medications.

In 1996, Governor Mel Carnahan signed into law the "Safe Schools Act." Contained in this was an amendment the American Lung Association of Eastern Missouri advocated to assist families and schools who must deal with asthma. Because asthma is the number one reason for missed school days, many schools are challenged to assure children with asthma are able to participate fully in the learning process.

To self-administer asthma medication, children **MUST** have on file with the school:

- Written authorization by the parent/guardian
- Medical history of the student's asthma
- A written asthma action plan to address emergencies and the care of asthma while in school
- Written authorization from the prescribing physician that the child has asthma, has been trained in the use of the medication, and is capable of self-administering the medication

If the above steps are followed, the school incurs no liability as a result of the child self-administering life-saving medication. Permission for self-medication must be renewed every school year.