



Spring/Summer 2009

Dear School District Leader:

Complications from asthma are a key reason children miss school, accounting for almost 15 million absences each year. On average, in a classroom of 30 children, three are likely to have asthma. As school leaders, you have probably addressed issues related to asthma, including responding to increased absenteeism rates, implementing programs for students with asthma, and creating school board policies that focus on issues related to asthma. To assist you with these important tasks and challenges, we are pleased to provide you with the *Asthma Communications Toolkit for School District Leaders*.

Created by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA), this toolkit is a one-stop resource of various information and publications to guide you in responding to the rising concern about and prevalence of asthma in your district. It contains asthma facts and data; forms for students, staff and families; informative posters; talking points to drive home the impact of asthma on children; staff educational materials; and a policy assessment tool to help ensure that a comprehensive approach to asthma is supported. In addition, there are letter templates to communicate with students, health professionals, staff, parents and the community in the event of an asthma emergency.

We envision that this toolkit will be used and shared with everyone in your district and your community who is involved and invested in the health and wellness of students. The entire toolkit is conveniently available in electronic format on the AASA and NSBA websites. We encourage you to use the materials to fit the specific needs and characteristics of your school district.

Providing timely and ready-to-use tools to help you communicate about critical school health issues is a shared mission of AASA and NSBA. We are interested in how this toolkit is being used and how it has benefitted your district. The websites contain a short evaluation of the Asthma Communications Toolkit. We encourage your feedback on the usefulness of the kit. For additional information, questions or comments, please contact Lorene Alba at lalba@aasa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel A. Domenech".

Daniel A. Domenech, AASA
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Bryant".

Anne L. Bryant, NSBA
Executive Director