



## **Asthma Care Policy**

An asthma action plan is a self-management tool that is used to help a person diagnosed with asthma better control his or her condition. It is completed by a physician or healthcare provider and includes information on a student's medications and dosing requirements, asthma triggers, how to handle worsening symptoms and what to do during a breathing emergency. It is a critical element in a school's overall wellness plan that can help school nurses identify and track those students that are most at risk for having an asthma emergency.

In order to protect all students with asthma, each student at Geist Montessori Academy identified as having asthma must have an asthma action plan on file that is signed by a physician or healthcare provider. Geist Montessori Academy is willing to accept any of the standardized asthma action plans provided by the American Lung Association, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, state asthma coalitions or the student's pediatrician's office, as long as it is filled out correctly and signed by a healthcare provider. The school nurse can provide this plan for the student if the parent needs assistance in obtaining the form. The form can be written based on symptoms, peak flow meter readings or both.

Asthma action plan protocols include:

- Provide individual asthma action plan forms in annual enrollment materials as requested by parent or physician.
- Create and support procedures to obtain, maintain, and utilize written asthma action plans, signed by the child's physician, for every student with asthma. The school nurse will write an Individual Health Plan for each student that has asthma needs and medications housed at school to assist in an asthmatic event.
- Collect and/or review asthma action plans on an annual basis or when there is a change in the severity classification of a student's asthma.
- Follow a standard emergency protocol for students in respiratory distress that do not have a written asthma action plan on site. Copies of the asthma action plan should be filed in the following:
  - The original form should be available in an unlocked location within the school health clinic that is accessible to anyone who may need to administer medication.
  - A copy should be provided to any teachers or designated staff as needed.