

2025
State Honor Roll

**Asthma and Allergy
Policies for Schools**

Methodology



**Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America**

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Methodology Overview

In 2023, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) began the process of updating the State Honor Roll for Asthma and Allergy Policies in Schools. The previous version from 2019 can be found here: <https://www.aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/aafa-2019-state-honor-roll-report.pdf>.

In 2024, AAFA convened 19 expert stakeholders to advise on updating the policy standards for the 2025 report. These experts contributed valuable insights through roundtable discussions, helping to ensure the standards reflect current best practices and needs of K-12 students with asthma, food allergies, anaphylaxis and related diseases.

AAFA also contracted with Seed 2 Roots, and began working with legal researcher Natasha Frost, a lawyer who has completed several 50-state reviews on a variety of topics.

Led by Legal Researcher Natasha Frost (Legal Researcher) and Subject Matter Expert Jenna Riemenschneider (Subject Matter Expert) AAFA conducted the 2025 State Honor Roll research following the steps below:

Step 1: Policy Standards

AAFA convened 19 individuals as part of an Expert Workgroup to advise on updating the State Honor Roll's policy standards.

Step 2: Initial Searches

Legal Researcher completed searches in legal database.

Step 3: Search Adjustments

Subject Matter Expert reviewed searches using outside resources and knowledge of the existing state laws on specific indicators, resulting in expanded search terms.

Step 4: Final Searches

Searches, including additional searches, were completed and downloaded specifically for review.

Step 5: Search Review

Search results split between Legal Researcher and Subject Matter Expert to be reviewed for applicability and tracked in chart.

Step 6: Results Analysis

Applicable results were reviewed for scoring using a standardized protocol, with non-standard results using a 2-reviewer authentication.

Step 7: Final Results

Legal researcher completed searches in legal database. Final protocol for each indicator confirmed and final review completed to ensure consistency.

Step 1: Policy Standards

In February 2024, AAFA convened 19 individuals with expertise in a range of fields including schools, health care, policy, climate and the environment, and building science, to provide input on AAFA's State Honor Roll core policy standards and extra credit policy standards. The experts were divided into 2 workgroups for roundtable discussions focusing on Medication, Treatment, and Awareness policies, and School Environment policies. Following these discussions, the State Honor Roll standards were updated based on input from the workgroups and redistributed for additional feedback. This iterative process ensured the updated standards reflected expert insights before final approval.

Step 2: Initial Searches

Legal Researcher completed searches in legal database. Legal researcher used the Westlaw legal database, using search term rubrics of that database. The initial searches were focused on specific words related to the concepts identified in each indicator. An overarching word search was identified using broad terms for asthma, anaphylaxis, allergy, epinephrine and albuterol. Any indicators that needed other search terms were also identified. Initial searches were completed in April-May, 2024.

Step 3: Search Adjustments

Subject Matter Expert reviewed searches using outside resources and knowledge of the existing state laws on specific indicators, resulting in expanded search terms. Outside resources used for the following indicators as a cross reference included the Public Health Law Center, National School Board Association, and Environmental Law Institute. Additional words and phrases were added to the search terms. In addition, the indicator language was adjusted by the Subject Matter Expert and her team in order to better reflect the goals of the scoring.

Step 4: Final Searches

Searches, including additional searches, were completed and downloaded specifically for review. Legal Researcher completed state searches using the search terms in both statutes and regulations. Each state's results were downloaded and saved temporarily for review. Results were tracked in Excel to reflect how many results found and how many were downloaded. If any results were not downloaded, the exclusion criteria was established and tracked in the Excel spreadsheet. In addition, a summary of the results was downloaded to cross reference for future steps. Finally, searches were saved in the Westlaw legal database. A summary of the searches are outlined below:

Medication and Treatment Standards	Search
Medication	
1. Requires schools to have medication administration policies for school personnel to give prescription medication to students.	(in ed code) prescription or medic! or "chronic condition" advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
2. Policy ensures students' right to self-carry and self-administer prescribed asthma medication.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
3. Policy ensures students' right to self-carry and self-administer prescribed anaphylaxis medication.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
4. Policy protects school personnel from liability for unintended injuries related to medication administration.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
5. Requires anaphylaxis medicine – epinephrine – stocking and authority to administer in schools.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
6. Allows and/or requires asthma quick-relief medicine stocking and authority to administer in schools.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol) advanced: bronchodilator or inhaler
Identification and Reporting	
7. Requires schools to update and maintain records/health histories for identified students with chronic conditions including asthma and anaphylaxis.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
8. Requires schools to maintain asthma/allergy incident reports for reactions, attacks and medications administered.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
Management Policy	
9. Requires schools to have emergency protocols for asthma.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
10. Requires schools to have emergency protocols for anaphylaxis.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
Health Services Capacity	
11. Has adopted policy that each school will have at least 1 full-time nurse.	[In education code] advanced: ("case management" OR nurse)
12. Has adopted policies that address the development of comprehensive, school-based health services.	[In education code] advanced: ("case management" OR nurse) advanced: ("school-based health" or "school health")

Medication and Treatment Extra Credit	
A. Has or is preparing an explicit asthma program with policies, procedures and resources for schools to manage students with asthma.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
B. Has or is preparing an explicit anaphylaxis program with policies, procedures and resources for schools to manage students with allergies.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
C. Recommends each school stock at least 2 doses of easily administered epinephrine.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
D. Provides funding for stock medications.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
Awareness Standards	Search
13. Sponsors or provides funding for staff training in asthma awareness covering school asthma program/policy and procedures.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
14. Sponsors or provides funding for staff training for the prevention, recognition, and treatment of allergic reactions to food.	advanced: (asthma anaphy! allerg! epinephrine albuterol)
School Environment Standards	Search
Indoor Air Quality	
15. Requires schools to have indoor air quality (IAQ) management policies.	advanced: "IAQ" or "Indoor air quality" or HVAC advanced: (indoor & environment) in ed code
16. Makes funding or other resources, such as training, available for technical IAQ assistance to schools.	advanced: "IAQ" or "Indoor air quality" or HVAC advanced: (indoor & environment) in ed code
17. Requires schools to inspect and maintain heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.	advanced: "IAQ" or "Indoor air quality" or HVAC advanced: (building & maintenance) in ed code
18. Requires schools to develop a plan to identify sources of mold and, if necessary, a plan to clean and remediate mold and mold sources in public school buildings.	advanced: (mold & school)
19. Recommends standards and programs to promote IAQ for school construction and renovation.	advanced: "green enviro!" advanced: building & "High Performance" advanced: (sustainable /p school) advanced: "IAQ" or "Indoor air quality" or HVAC

20. Requires schools to develop a cleaning program that promotes healthy IAQ.	advanced: "green enviro!" advanced: "IAQ" or "Indoor air quality" or HVAC
21. Requires schools to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, including limiting use of pesticides inside schools and on school campuses.	advanced: "Integrated Pest Management" advanced: school & "pest management"
Outdoor Air Quality	
22. If pesticide use is necessary, state requires schools to notify parents of upcoming pesticide applications.	advanced: (pesticide & school)
23. Limits school bus idling time and/or establishes proximity restrictions.	advanced: "bus idl!" advanced: (bus "heavy duty") & idl!
24. Has implemented zero-emission school bus transition incentives or mandates.	advanced: ("electric" /s "school bus" or "schoolbus") advanced: ("zero emission" /s school)
Tobacco and Vaping Policy	
25. Prohibits all smoking and vaping in school buildings and on school grounds.	advanced: (vap! e-cigarette) & school
26. Prohibits all smoking and vaping on school buses and at school-related functions.	advanced: (vap! e-cigarette) & school
27. Requires tobacco-use and vaping prevention in health education curriculum.	advanced: (vap! e-cigarette) & school
School Environment Extra Credit	
E. Requires school facility design and operation standards that address IAQ.	advanced: "green enviro!" advanced: "IAQ" or "Indoor air quality" or HVAC "green cleaning" advanced: (environmental! & school & Cleaning)
F. Requires districts or schools to provide tobacco-use-cessation and e-cigarette-use-cessation services and resources to students.	advanced: (school & cessation & tobacco)

Step 5: Search Review

Search results were split between Legal Researcher and Subject Matter Expert to be reviewed for applicability and tracked. Legal Researcher reviewed Medication and Treatment standards and Subject Matter Expert reviewed the School Environment standards.

For the Medication and Treatment standards, a Word document was created to capture all relevant statute and regulations by state. Legal Researcher went through each search result, doing a line-by-line read to identify whether the indicator was addressed. If any possible language was identified, the language and legal citation was cut and pasted into the Word document.

For the School Environment standards, the Subject Matter Expert created a detailed Excel table. Any relevant search results were identified and included in the table, including the specific language and citation of the statute or regulation.

During this process, it was identified that Westlaw did not have the Northern Mariana Islands statutes and regulations. A specific protocol was established. Northern Mariana Islands statutes were found on the website: <https://cnmilaw.org/cmc.php#gsc.tab=0&gsc.sort=date>. Legal Researcher completed specific searches using the Westlaw search terms. This process has limitations because Google search engine has different search rubrics than Westlaw, so the search parameters did not always work. Based on limited resources, the additional protocol was identified to review the Education section of the statutes. Legal Researcher reviewed those statutes for search terms and indicator using standard legal research methods. This protocol was identified for regulations using the content found here: <https://cnmilaw.org/admin.php>.

Step 6: Results Analysis

Applicable results were reviewed for scoring using a standardized protocol, with non-standard results using a 2-reviewer authentication. Legal Researcher and Subject Matter Expert had several meetings and email exchanges to find a common analysis. This analysis was written down to ensure consistency. Any exclusionary results were also included. Once the analysis was complete, the downloaded statutes and regulations were deleted. The analysis completed on all standards was based on a standardized legal review of the plain language of the law and did not consider other policies or components of implementation.

Step 7: Final Results

Final protocol for each indicator was confirmed and final review was completed to ensure consistency. Legal Researcher captured the final standardized protocol, which is outlined below. Subject Matter Expert did a final review to ensure consistency with the final protocol. Each indicator includes the corresponding statute and/or regulation with language and situation for tracking purposes. This information was captured in a detailed Excel spreadsheet.

Medication and Treatment Standards	Protocol
Medication	
1. Requires schools to have medication administration policies for school personnel to give prescription medication to students.	1. Specifically about school personnel to administer, AND 2. Either: • Medication administration policy for all medications, OR • Medication administration policy or policies for allergy AND asthma
2. Policy ensures students' right to self-carry and self-administer prescribed asthma medication.	1. Allowed to self carry asthma medication, AND 2. Allowed to self administer asthma medication
3. Policy ensures students' right to self-carry and self-administer prescribed anaphylaxis medication.	1. Allowed to self carry anaphylaxis medication, AND 2. Allowed to self administer anaphylaxis medication
4. Policy protects school personnel from liability for unintended injuries related to medication administration.	1. Either: • School personnel not liable for administering medication for all medications, AND/OR • School personnel not liable for administering asthma AND allergy medications Does not apply if only about self-carry.
5. Requires anaphylaxis medicine – epinephrine – stocking and authority to administer in schools.	This only applies if specifically requires, not just allows.
6. Allows and/or requires asthma quick-relief medicine stocking and authority to administer in schools.	This applies if allows or if requires.

Identification and Reporting

7. Requires schools to update and maintain records/health histories for identified students with chronic conditions including asthma and anaphylaxis.	1. Either: • If you have required health records generally, OR • If you have a requirement for “chronic conditions” Does not apply if only at enrollment. Does apply if updated at different age groups (e.g. elementary, middle, high school). Does not apply for immunization only.
8. Requires schools to maintain asthma/allergy incident reports for reactions, attacks and medications administered.	1. Either: • All medical emergencies relating to medications, OR • BOTH asthma and allergy incident reports Does not apply if allows for reports, but not requires. Does not apply if only tied to stock medication (e.g. if you stock allergy medication, then you have to do incident reports).

Management Policy

9. Requires schools to have emergency protocols for asthma.	1. Either: • Has emergency protocols requirements for medical emergencies generally, OR • Has emergency protocol requirements specific to asthma Does not apply if only required for those who choose to stock asthma medication.
10. Requires schools to have emergency protocols for anaphylaxis.	1. Either: • Has emergency protocols requirements for medical emergencies generally, OR • Has emergency protocol requirements specific to allergy Does not apply if only required for those who choose to stock allergy medication.

Health Services Capacity	
11. Has adopted policy that each school will have at least 1 full-time nurse.	1. Requirement of at least 1 full-time nurse per school. Does not apply if it was by district, or by student count, or was not a requirement.
12. Has adopted policies that address the development of comprehensive, school-based health services.	1. Has adopted policies that address comprehensive, school-based health services. Can be aspirational: • Grant program qualifies • Advisory council qualifies • Can be at some schools, but not all schools/districts Does not include special education services or CHIP programs.
Medication and Treatment Extra Credit	
A. Has or is preparing an explicit asthma program with policies, procedures and resources for schools to manage students with asthma.	1. Any of the following qualify: • If state stocks albuterol with details on how detect and/or respond to asthma, with specifics (e.g. airway management, identifying asthma attack, etc.) • If there is an “asthma action plan” • If a state department has an explicit mention of an asthma program Does not qualify if mentioned only administering and calling emergency personnel without specifics on other parts of asthma management. Any state agency qualifies (e.g. Department of Health or Department of Education in consultation with medical providers)

B. Has or is preparing an explicit anaphylaxis program with policies, procedures and resources for schools to manage students with allergies.	1. Any of the following qualify: • If state stocks epinephrine with details on how detect and/or respond to allergy, with specifics (e.g. allergy prevention, recognizing anaphylaxis, etc.) • If there is an “allergy action plan” • If a state department has an explicit mention of an anaphylaxis program Does not qualify if mentioned only administering and calling emergency personnel without specifics on other parts of allergy management. Any state agency qualifies (e.g. Department of Health or Department of Education in consultation with medical providers)
C. Recommends each school stock at least 2 doses of easily administered epinephrine.	1. Must recommend 2 or more doses.
D. Provides funding for stock medications.	1. Either: • Provides funding for allergy OR asthma or emergency medication, OR • Schools can apply for reimbursement Does not apply if only allows school districts to look for private funding or donations. Does not capture the annual appropriations or specific funding in legislation that does not make it into statutes/regulations.

Awareness Standards	Protocol
13. Sponsors or provides funding for staff training in asthma awareness covering school asthma program/policy and procedures.	1. Either: • A state agency must provide the training guidance with specificity (e.g. risk reductions, symptoms, etc.), OR • The specific training requirement language in the law has specifics on what needs to be in the training (e.g. risk reductions, symptoms, etc.), OR • State provides funding for asthma training Does not apply if only mentions that training is required.
14. Sponsors or provides funding for staff training for the prevention, recognition, and treatment of allergic reactions to food.	1. Either: • A state agency must provide the training guidance with specificity (e.g. risk reductions, symptoms, etc.), OR • The specific training requirement language in the law has specifics on what needs to be in the training (e.g. risk reductions, symptoms, etc.), OR • State provides funding for allergy training Does not apply if only mentions that training is required.
School Environment Standards	Protocol
Indoor Air Quality	
15. Requires schools to have indoor air quality (IAQ) management policies.	1. Either: • The state has an explicit indoor air quality plan, OR • It has requirements to maintain air quality at a certain level (e.g. CO2 level of 1200 ppm)
16. Makes funding or other resources, such as training, available for technical IAQ assistance to schools.	1. The law includes specifics on resources, trainings AND/OR funding (e.g. air ventilation pilot program, health schools grant program with indoor air quality listed). Does not include any links or information on state websites that are not codified in law.

17. Requires schools to inspect and maintain heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.	1. Either: • The law has specifics on heating and ventilation inspection and/or maintenance, OR • The state specifically has adopted ASHRAE Standard 62.1 codified in law Does not include general mention of heating, ventilation and/or air conditioning (e.g. has a maintenance plan without specific mention of HVAC)
18. Requires schools to develop a plan to identify sources of mold and, if necessary, a plan to clean and remediate mold and mold sources in public school buildings.	1. Explicitly identify mold OR say all hazards, AND 2. Specifically mentions the requirement to remediate Does not include only identification (e.g. a checklist that identifies mold)
19. Recommends standards and programs to promote IAQ for school construction and renovation.	1. Either: • Has IAQ standards for school construction, OR • Adopts ANSI/ASHRAE standards for new buildings Can qualify if these are recommendations, not requirements. Does not apply if only energy efficiency requirements.
20. Requires schools to develop a cleaning program that promotes healthy IAQ.	1. Specifically states that cleaning products must be environmentally preferred AND/OR green AND/OR non-hazardous to health Does not apply if only permissive language (e.g. recommends, suggests).
21. Requires schools to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, including limiting use of pesticides inside schools and on school campuses.	1. Either: • Requires Integrated Pest Management techniques, OR • Encompassed the techniques (e.g. limiting chemicals inside the schools) Does not apply if only had to “study” or “get training” on IPM, without any specific requirement that the technique must be used.

Outdoor Air Quality	
22. If pesticide use is necessary, state requires schools to notify parents of upcoming pesticide applications.	1. Either: • Explicitly requires notification of pesticide application for all students, OR • Explicitly requires a pesticide notification registry of parents and school personnel to be notified of pesticide applications
23. Limits school bus idling time and/or establishes proximity restrictions.	1. Either: • Limits idling for all commercial vehicles, OR • Limits idling for school buses, OR • Limits idling for all vehicles, OR • Limits idling for state vehicles
24. Has implemented zero-emission school bus transition incentives or mandates.	1. Must be working toward zero-emission through: • Grant incentives, AND/OR • Long-term mandates, AND/OR • Implementation plan language Does not apply if only participating in EPA clean school bus program.
Tobacco and Vaping Policy	
25. Prohibits all smoking and vaping in school buildings and on school grounds.	1. Must include all school grounds (not just indoors), AND 2. Vaping must be included in definition for smoking and/or tobacco without conflicting definition in school code
26. Prohibits all smoking and vaping on school buses and at school-related functions.	1. Must include both school buses and school-related functions (also referenced as school-sponsored events), AND 2. Vaping must be included in definition for smoking and/or tobacco without conflicting definition in school code
27. Requires tobacco-use and vaping prevention in health education curriculum.	1. Has a health education program with tobacco/vaping explicitly listed as part of the program, AND 2. Vaping must be included in definition for smoking and/or tobacco without conflicting definition in school code. Does not apply if there is a state-funded grant program for tobacco-use and vaping health education if not required for schools to use program.

School Environment Extra Credit	
E. Requires school facility design and operation standards that address IAQ.	1. Specifically covers standards for new buildings that address indoor air quality, such as ventilation, low emission construction materials, pollutant source controls, durable and easy to clean surfaces and/or floors, moisture/mold controls Does not apply if only recommendations or aspirational language.
F. Requires districts or schools to provide tobacco-use-cessation and e-cigarette-use-cessation services and resources to students.	1. State requires schools to have cessation services, AND 2. Vaping must be included in definition for smoking and/or tobacco without conflicting definition in school code Does not apply if there is a state-funded grant program for tobacco-use and vaping cessation services and/or state-funded resources, especially through the tobacco settlement dollars.

Limitations

The protocol and results have limitations for the final State Honor Roll including limitations on scope, applicability and timing. The search in Westlaw does not include any legislation that was passed but not codified by the time the searches were completed. Any appropriations were also excluded from the searches. The applicability of the statutes and regulations are limited by the results of the search terms. Additional laws could be included in statutes and regulations that do use the identified search terms. The timing of the search is also a limitation, as it was completed over the course of 6 months (April to September 2024). States may have changed their laws during this window of time.



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