

# Annual Asthma-friendly Schools Recognition Program Criteria

August 2025

**Nominate your school by May 31<sup>st</sup> each year.**

Becoming an asthma-friendly school is simple to do and benefits **all** students and staff—especially those with asthma. This document provides an overview of the criteria for becoming an asthma-friendly school. There are three recognition levels.

- ★ **Bronze** (7–13 best practices)
- ★ **Silver** (14–20 best practices)
- ★ **Gold** (21 or more best practices)



Learn more and nominate your school at [www.HealthVermont.gov/wellness/asthma-lung-disease/asthma-friendly-schools](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/wellness/asthma-lung-disease/asthma-friendly-schools).

Check off the practices you and your school are already doing. Most schools qualify for bronze for the work they already do. Then consider which additional practices you and your school could take and go for gold! These best practices should be put into place and/or confirmed annually to ensure students and staff continue to be protected. If you need support or have questions about these practices, email [AHS.VDHAsthmaProgram@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHAsthmaProgram@vermont.gov).

**Each best practice below is 1 point** – check off as many best practices as you can to become an asthma-friendly school. Practices that rely on cumulative progress are indented.

## Best Practices for Becoming an Asthma-friendly School

### Overarching Practices

- ☐ School has a full-time licensed school nurse all day, every day.
- ☐ School promotes annual well-child exams.
- ☐ School participates in a [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child](#) (WSCC) or equivalent team.

### School Staff Training

- ☐ Staff were trained on asthma basics, asthma management and asthma emergency response.
- ☐ Staff received a best practice train-the-trainer training in an AS-ME curriculum.
- ☐ School nurse received refresher training in asthma guideline care standards.

### Uncontrolled Asthma and Asthma Self-Management Education (AS-ME) Delivery

- ☐ School nurse knows the students at highest risk of an asthma exacerbation by checking the number of asthma-related school nurse visits or missed school days.
- ☐ School nurse knows the students at highest risk of an asthma exacerbation by checking the date of the last asthma-related urgent care, emergency department, or hospitalization visit.
- ☐ Staff delivered 2-4 sessions of an [AS-ME](#) curriculum to at least one student with uncontrolled asthma.
  - ☐ Staff submitted completed AS-ME forms to the Vermont Asthma Program.
  - ☐ School nurse has a plan and regularly implements AS-ME delivery to students with uncontrolled asthma.

## Asthma Action Plans (AAP)

- ☐ School has a written [AAP](#) for at least 50% of students with asthma.
  - ☐ Increase to 65% of students with asthma with an AAP.
  - ☐ Increase to 80% of students with asthma with an AAP.

## Asthma Management

- ☐ School ensures students' right to self-carry and self-administer prescribed asthma medication.
- ☐ Individualized Health Care Plans (IHP) are prepared for at least one student taking asthma medications at school.
- ☐ A 504 plan is prepared for at least one student at risk of an asthma emergency.
- ☐ School uses an electronic health record (EHR) to identify, track, and maintain current individual health plans for students with asthma.
- ☐ School has an asthma emergency plan in its official handbooks to reach at least one of the following audiences - students, parents, staff.
  - ☐ Increase to reach at least two audiences.
  - ☐ Increase to reach all three audiences.

## Air Quality

- ☐ School purchases only 3rd party certified, asthma-friendly [cleaning products](#).
- ☐ School prevents parents, teachers, and staff from bringing in cleaning and disinfecting products (including disinfecting wipes).
- ☐ School has a fragrance-free policy that strives to purchase fragrance-free products when available and prevents parents, teachers and staff from bringing in products with fragrances like essential oils.
- ☐ School has a written indoor air quality (IAQ) management plan that reduces or eliminates allergens and irritants.
- ☐ School made HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) improvements, installed air purifiers, and/or conducted maintenance on these systems in the past 5 years.
- ☐ School monitors IAQ across the facility and addresses any issues identified.
- ☐ School enforces vehicle idling policies on school grounds and at school-sponsored events.
- ☐ School has completed a modification or changeover to a cleaner energy source to reduce emissions on at least one bus.
  - ☐ School has a plan or timeline in place to modify or change over all school buses to reduce emissions.

## Envision Walkthroughs

- ☐ School conducted an [Envision environmental walkthrough](#) this school year.
  - ☐ School shared the walkthrough findings and recommendations with WSCC team or equivalent.
  - ☐ School addressed findings from its annual Envision walkthrough.

## Tobacco Free Campus and Supports

- ☐ School enforces the state law that bans the use of cigarettes, tobacco products, and tobacco substitutes (e.g., e-cigarettes) on school property, buses, and at school-sponsored events.
- ☐ School has a process to refer or share resources to a student or family member identified for tobacco use, vaping or secondhand smoke exposure to support cessation (e.g., [802Quits](#)).