



ASTHMA PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

...In the past 15 years, the incidence of asthma has gone up 40%.

Historical Background: Asthma management and prevention education was begun at two SFUSD schools in 1991, using the American Lung Association's "Open Airways" curriculum. In 1996, Dr. George Washington Carver Academic Elementary School partnered with Kaiser- Permanente, using "Open Airways" and an adaptation of Kaiser's theater group, *Professor Bodywise*. Carver introduced school-wide awareness programs for students, staff and parents. Curricula developed by California Pacific Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente are also used in selected schools.

What is the goal of the Asthma Program?

The goal of the asthma program is to decrease incidence of acute asthma, increase awareness of asthma prevention strategies and increase student attendance.

Asthma Programs in SFUSD:

Because asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness and the incidence of asthma has increased by 40%, SHPD has facilitated asthma prevention programs and services within SFUSD. School Health Programs Department facilitated collaborative meetings with representatives from American Lung Association, California Pacific Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital and UCSF. The outcome of these meetings is an established criteria that all asthma prevention education programs and services will model. The establishment of criteria ensures that all of our students will receive baseline standard curriculum and programs. The programs target general asthma awareness and education for students and families. General asthma awareness lessons are available as part of the disease and disorder section of the Health Education curriculum.

Asthma classes and support groups exist in many schools and are supported by school district nurses, community based organizations and school site administrators.

Activities within SFUSD and School Health Programs Department that support asthma management and education:

- Nurse of the Day
- Section 504--Americans with Disabilities Act
- School District Nurses
- First Aid Manuals
- Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE)
- Student Success Team (SST)
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- Secretary's Binder
- Board of Education Policy for Indoor Air Quality
- Board of Education Policy for Indoor Air Quality

For further information contact:

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