



SCHOOL NURSE ORGANIZATION OF WASHINGTON

## POSITION STATEMENT

### The Use of Asthma Inhalers in the School Setting

#### **HISTORY:**

The number of diagnosed cases of asthma is increasing each year. Inhaled medication is frequently used to manage the condition and treat acute exacerbations.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:**

Early recognition and prompt treatment of symptoms are vital to the management of asthma.

#### **RATIONALE:**

School district medication policies must be developed with the safety of all students in mind. Easy access to and correct use of asthma inhalers are necessary to avoid serious respiratory complications secondary to acute exacerbation, to improve the quality of life of students with asthma and to improve the student's ability to learn.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

It is the position of SNOW to support the self management of asthma, including the use of prescribed, inhaled medications on a case-by-case basis with parent, physician, school nurse and, if appropriate, student involvement. Written permission from the parent and physician must be obtained.

Adopted: January 2003