

2009 HONORABLE MENTION STATES

Several states, although not included among the Honor Roll States, are worthy of recognition because they instituted new mandatory policies in 2008 – 2009 to prevent and/or manage asthma and anaphylaxis in their schools systems. Please also see Chart 2: All 50 States – Performance on Core Policy Standards, and Chart 3: All 50 States – Performance on Extra Credit Indicators.

Note: We chose to use new criteria to select states for honorable mention in 2009 than we used in the inaugural year for this report. In 2008, we highlighted states with exemplary programs, or those that met a relatively high number of policy standards and extra credit indicators. In this second year, we looked for progress from 2008. Thus, states we included on our first Honorable Mention list in 2008 are in no way *demoted* simply because they do not appear among Honorable Mention states for 2009.

Colorado

Colorado has heightened awareness of allergies in schools. The state now requires that the state Board of Education, in consultation with the Public Health and Environment Department, make rules to manage the risks posed by food allergies and anaphylaxis in public schools. In addition, state school districts and the state charter schools must develop policies that satisfy these rules. Colorado also requires schools to identify students with food allergies and keep records of student allergies and medications. Colorado now meets 13 of the core policy standards and five of the 15 extra credit indicators.

Georgia

Georgia has recognized the problem of allergies in schools and now allows elementary and secondary school students to possess and self-administer epinephrine while in school, at a school sponsored activity, while under the supervision of school personnel or while in before-school or after-school care on school operated property. The state has also limited unnecessary school bus idling. By this action, Georgia doubled the number of core policy standards that it meets (from two to four) and now meets six of 15 extra credit indicators.

Iowa

Iowa passed landmark legislation, the Smokefree Air Act, which took effect on July 1, 2008. The Act prohibits smoking in and around school buildings, including but not limited to, school vehicles and private buildings on school property. The law provides that schools post “no smoking” signs and provides penalties for individuals who violate the law. Iowa meets 12 of the core policy standards and five of the 15 extra credit indicators.

Kansas

Kansas now allows any individual to administer epinephrine at school, on school property or at a school-sponsored event if the individual exhibits the signs and symbols of anaphylactic reaction or shock. A school may keep epinephrine kits on the premises if it has a consulting pharmacist to act in a supervisory capacity, responsible for developing procedures, proper control and accountability for the kit.

The state shields any person administering epinephrine to a student or member of school staff at school, on school property or at a school event from liability for injuries if the person acts in good faith or gratuitously, and if the actions are reasonably prudent. Kansas meets six of the core policy standards and three of the 15 extra credit indicators.

West Virginia

West Virginia has a strong array of policies across all domains. In 2008, the state instituted an Asthma Action Plan as part of its *Take Action!* for addressing diabetes and asthma in public schools. *Take Action!* includes having an asthma action plan for each student with asthma. West Virginia meets 14 of the 18 core policy standards and 13 of the 15 extra credit indicators.