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Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) Releases 2016 State Honor Roll™

Report describes states with the best public policies for people with asthma, food allergies, anaphylaxis and related allergic diseases in U.S. elementary, middle and high schools. Fifteen states achieve “honor roll” status.

December 27, 2016, LANDOVER, MD – The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) has published its 2016 State Honor Roll™ of Asthma and Allergy Policies for Schools. The report describes states with the best public policies for people with asthma, food allergies, anaphylaxis and related allergic diseases in U.S. elementary, middle and high schools. This year, 15 states made the grade, with Connecticut as the first state to meet all 23 core public policy issues. New York has joined the list for the first time.

Allergic conditions are the most common health issues affecting children in the U.S.¹ Asthma is the third-leading cause of hospital stays in children.² Among children ages 5 to 17, asthma is one of the top causes of missed school days.³ The comprehensive report provides information to assess state-level school-related asthma and allergy public policies. It also gives educators, families, legislators and policymakers an overview of how public policies and practices in their state compare to others and provides potential models for improvement. This year’s State Honor Roll report also includes two “spotlight” articles – one on albuterol stocking in schools, and the other about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – a means by which to deal with triggers that can cause allergies and asthma to flare in the school room.

“Chronic disease among school-aged children is a major national public health concern. It is important for schools to implement policies that encourage a supportive learning environment for students and adults with asthma and allergies to help keep children safe and in control. Through this report and our other programs, AAFA seeks to promote more evidence-based, and more effective, school-based policies and practices for children with chronic conditions like asthma and food allergy,” stresses Cary Sennett, MD, PhD, AAFA’s President and CEO.

“We’re delighted that Connecticut is the first state to meet all 23 core public policy standards. We’re also pleased to see New York included in the State Honor Roll™ for the first time. I hope that additional states will strive for recognition in the State Honor Roll™ in 2017 and beyond,” commented Meryl Bloomrosen, MBA, MBI, AAFA’s Senior Vice President of Policy, Advocacy, and Research. Bloomrosen continued, “Schools are vital for some students to receive needed health services. Educators and school staff are accountable for ensuring that students with chronic illness have access to the services they need so that they can remain in the classroom ready to learn.”



The number of states to make AAFA's 2016 State Honor Roll™ has more than doubled since the initial report in 2008. AAFA's annual report compares all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC) on 23 core public policy issues that affect kids and adults with asthma and allergies while in K-12 classrooms. States that have enacted at least 18 of these 23 core policies are named to the State Honor Roll™.

The full report – with tables, charts, maps, and state-by-state summaries at www.StateHonorRoll.org – celebrates exemplary state efforts and ongoing state progress. The 2016 State “Honor Roll” list includes:

- Connecticut (meets all 23 Core Policies. Has made the list annually since 2008)
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts (on list since 2008)
- Mississippi
- New Jersey (on List since 2008)
- New Mexico
- New York (new to list in 2016)
- North Carolina
- Rhode Island (on list since 2008)
- Vermont (on list since 2008)
- Washington (on list since 2008)
- West Virginia

AAFA's 2016 State Honor Roll™ (SHR) Report of Asthma and Allergy Policies for Schools was supported in part by a grant from Genentech.

About AAFA

Founded in 1953 and celebrating over 60 years of service, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) is the oldest and largest nonprofit patient organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma, allergies and related conditions through education, advocacy and research. AAFA provides practical information, community-based services, support and referrals through a national network of chapters and educational support groups. Through its Kids With Food Allergies division, AAFA offers the oldest, most extensive online support community for families raising children with food allergies. In addition, AAFA sponsors and advocates for research to advance the basic science relevant to treatment and cure. It also champions translational research so that the science that we have is applied more consistently and reliably. For more information, visit www.aafa.org, and www.kidswithfoodallergies.org.

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¹ Jackson K, Howie L, Akinbami L. CDC. Trends in Conditions Among Children: United States, 1997-2011. NCHS Data Brief. No 121. May 2013. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db121.pdf>

² CDC. National Surveillance of Asthma: United States, 2001-2010. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_03/sr03_035.pdf.

³ Centers for Disease Control. Asthma. <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/default.htm>.