

# Funding for Inhalers in Schools

Guidance Document: August 2024

## Stock Inhaler Legislation

In 2019, Senate Bill 381 passed, allowing schools to elect to provide stock inhalers in their districts. [70 O.S. § 1-116.3](#) outlines the school requirements concerning stock inhalers. In 2024, Senate Bill 36X appropriated \$250,000 to the State Board of Education for inhalers to aid school districts in funding stock inhalers and single-use spacers in schools.

## Process Overview

- Collaborate with stakeholders to identify the school's need for stock inhalers in your district. Include your School Nurse or Nursing Director.
- Identify how many school buildings are in the district.
- Develop an itemized budget and submit the information to OSDE.
- Obtain a prescription and purchase inhaler(s) and/or single-use spacers. Each school site is allowed up to \$140 to use to purchase inhalers and/or spacers.
- Submit one invoice to OSDE @ [sdeaccountspayable@sde.ok.gov](mailto:sdeaccountspayable@sde.ok.gov) with all sites included for reimbursement. The invoice must have supporting documentation and include the district's PeopleSoft Vendor ID.
- OSDE will send payment to the district.

For support or additional information, contact:

- Kellie Carter, Office of Special Education Services, [kellie.carter@sde.ok.gov](mailto:kellie.carter@sde.ok.gov)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will I need a prescription for the inhaler(s)?

Yes. Participating schools must have a standing order to use the medication from a licensed physician or nurse practitioner. Medical providers who sign standing orders, the school district, and participating school employees are immune from legal liability.

### What can I buy with this funding?

Rescue inhalers and/or single-use spacers can be purchased. The most common rescue inhalers are albuterol and levalbuterol.



## **Where can inhalers and spacers be purchased?**

Inhalers with a valid prescription can be purchased from a local pharmacy or medical supplier. Spacers can be purchased from a medical supplier or merchant online.

## **Can I use the same inhaler on multiple students?**

The inhaler can be used for multiple people if each person uses a different single-use spacer. To clean the inhaler, wipe the mouthpiece with an alcohol wipe that has at least 60% alcohol. Let the inhaler air dry.

## **Where should my school store the stock inhaler(s)?**

The school should store the stock inhaler(s) in a secure location that is accessible by a trained school staff member. Generally, albuterol inhalers or levalbuterol should be stored at room temperature.

## **Does the law require schools to provide stock albuterol at school or related school events on or off campus?**

No, the law does not require schools to provide stock albuterol at school or related school events that occur on or off campus. However, schools can make the inhaler available at these locations if they choose.

## **What if the inhaler expires?**

If the inhaler expires, it must be disposed of at a medical take-back location. Check with your local pharmacy, doctor's office, or law enforcement agency to identify where the drop box near your district.

Dropbox [locator](#)- Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

