If you think asthma isn’t impacting your students – THINK AGAIN!
Approximately 461,200 instructional hours were lost due to asthma in school year 2012-2013

Asthma among Florida Students
In 2012, approximately 1 out of 5 Florida public middle and high school students (20.5%) had been told by a doctor or nurse that they have asthma at sometime in their life (lifetime asthma). In addition, approximately 1 out of 6 middle and high school students (17%) reported having had an asthma attack in the past year. This means that in a classroom of 24 students, approximately 4 have had a recent asthma attack.

Asthma is On the Rise
Asthma prevalence is increasing among all ages in Florida and nationally. From 2006 to 2012, the prevalence of lifetime asthma among Florida public middle and high school increased by 21% from 17.0% to 20.5%.

Disparities and the Achievement Gap
Emergency department (ED) visits are a key indicator of asthma severity and/or poor asthma control. Among Florida residents ages 5-17, the rate of ED visits among non-Hispanic blacks (172.1 per 10,000) was more than 3 times the rate for NH-whites (49.9 per 10,000) and more than twice the rate for Hispanics (81.4 per 10,000). The impact of uncontrolled asthma on academic achievement should not be overlooked.

The subgroups disproportionately impacted by asthma mirror the subgroups identified by a recent Florida Department of Education (DOE) report as having lower levels of academic proficiency. The more severe a child’s asthma, the more likely they are to miss school and have symptoms that interfere with participation in class and physical activity.

Schools can Help Control Asthma!
Implementing robust, school-based asthma management programs, starting in elementary school, could enable significant health and educational achievement gains for those students most in need. Visit www.floridaasthmacoalition.com/schools to learn how your school can take action.

What Can You Do? Become an Asthma-Friendly School!!

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1 Data from the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey, www.floridachronicdisease.org/FYTS/intro.htm
2 Rates calculated using data from the Agency for Health Care Administration and population estimates from www.FloridaCharts.com