

Support:

- Statewide policies that allow students to apply, carry, and store sunscreen for personal use in school
- Education initiatives designed to encourage and promote smart, safe sunscreen use among students

Oppose:

- Barriers to allowing students to have adequate UV protection at school, including physician prescription requirements for students to apply, carry, and store sunscreen for personal use
- Policies that would prevent sunscreen from being provided to students by school district officials unless otherwise opposed by a parent or guardian

ASDSA supports the ability of school children to use sunscreen at school. ASDSA strongly supports allowing students to have and use sunscreen in school without a note from a physician.

The use of sunscreen at a young age is a critical and necessary component of skin cancer prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that only 11% of students reported regular or nearly regular use of sunscreen during prolonged periods of regular sun exposure.¹ Another recent study revealed more than 40 percent of an individual's lifetime UV exposure a person occurs within the first 20 years of life.² More than 7.7 million high school students participated in at least one sport in 2012-13, mostly outdoors.³

Just one blistering sunburn event during childhood or adolescence more than doubles a person's chances of developing melanoma later in life, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation.⁴ Melanoma accounts for 8% of all pediatric cancers in children between the ages of 15 and 19,⁵ and is the most common form of diagnosed cancer in persons between the ages of 24 and 29.⁶

Barriers to allowing students to use sunscreen put them at significant risk of sun damage. In June 2012, two students from Tacoma, Washington made national headlines, when it was reported that they were denied the use of sunscreen during an all-day field day activity

¹ Eaton, D.; et.al; Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 2011. Surveillance Summaries 8 June 2012. 61(SS04); 1-162. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6104a1.htm>

² Thomas, N., et.al.; Number of Nevi and Early-Life Ambient UV Exposure Are Associated with BRAF-Mutant Melanoma. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 2007; 16: 991-997

³ National Federation of State High School Associations. 2011-12 High School Athletics Participation Survey.

⁴ The Skin Cancer Foundation. *Facts About Sunburn and Skin Cancer*. <http://www.skincancer.org/prevention/sunburn/facts-about-sunburn-and-skin-cancer>

⁵ Horner MJ, Ries LA, Krapcho M, et al.: SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2006. Bethesda, Md: National Cancer Institute, 2009

⁶ Bleyer A, et.al: Cancer epidemiology in older adolescents and young adults 15 to 29 years of age, including SEER incidence and survival: 1975-2000. National Cancer Institute; 2006.

and were severely sunburned.⁷ Currently, most states have not taken a position on school sunscreen use policies, leaving it to a local district to decide whether a student can have or use sunscreen.

Regular sunscreen use helps reduce overall lifetime skin cancer rates. An Australian study published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* revealed that the regular use of sunscreen can significantly reduce an individual's risk of being diagnosed by skin cancer. Some subjects were provided with free sunscreen and were encouraged to apply during outdoor activities, while other subjects were not, so that researchers could determine whether regular application of sunscreen can reduce the risk of skin cancer. Over a fifteen year period, researchers found that individuals who regularly used sunscreen were 50% less likely to be diagnosed with melanoma, and 75% less likely to be diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer.⁸

The American Medical Association supports the availability of sunscreen for school children. In June 2013, the American Medical Association adopted policy to support the exemption of sunscreen from over-the-counter medication possession bans in schools and encourage all schools to allow students to bring and possess sunscreen at school without restriction and without requiring physician authorization.

⁷ Painter, K. Sunscreen Forbidden at Schools and Camps. USA Today 26 June 2012 Retrieved 13 Aug 2013.
<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/health/story/2012-06-27/sunscreen-policies/55877080/1>

⁸ Green, A., et.al.; Reduced Melanoma After Regular Sunscreen Use: Randomized Trial Follow-Up *J Clin Oncol* 2011 Jan. 29:257-263.