



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**JACK O'CONNELL**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 25, 2008

Kim Belshé, Secretary  
California Health and Human Services  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Belshé:

I am pleased to endorse the new *Strategic Plan for Asthma in California—2008-2012*. The California Health and Human Services Agency is to be commended for collaborating with many diverse partners to produce a plan that is very comprehensive in scope. In particular, the plan considers in detail many of the unique issues and needs confronting students and staff with asthma in California's schools and proposes viable strategies for addressing these concerns.

The core purpose of the California Department of Education is to lead and support the continuous improvement of student achievement, with a specific focus on closing achievement gaps. Recognizing that asthma is the most common serious, chronic health condition in school age children, causing millions of school absences annually, the impact of asthma on student achievement cannot be ignored. The new *Strategic Plan for Asthma in California—2008-2012* provides a strong framework for our agencies to collaborate in identifying and implementing actions that will improve school health practices and environments, resulting in optimal prevention and management of asthma throughout our state public school system.

I look forward to future partnerships as we collectively assist the many children with asthma attending California's schools to live, learn, and play without the burden of uncontrolled asthma.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Linda Davis-Alldritt, Consultant, School Health Connections/Healthy Start Office, at 916-319-0284 or by e-mail at [ldavisal@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ldavisal@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack O'Connell".

JACK O'CONNELL

JO:lda

cc: Sandra Shewry, Director, California Department of Health Care Services  
Mark Horton, M.D., Director, California Department of Public Health