Introduction
The purpose of this guidance document is to review existing statute, available resources and publications regarding education on sun safety and sunscreen use in schools and other areas where children are at risk to dangerous levels of sun exposure. The need to address this issue arose after certain schools had prohibited children from bringing and applying sunscreen in school due to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) classification of sunscreen as an over-the-counter medication.

Scope of Guidance Document
The effectiveness of existing statute and policies will be reviewed to determine a strategy to better position the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA) in creating resources and advocating for state policies that will help raise awareness on the dangers of unprotected sun exposure and lower the incidence of skin cancers in the youth population.

ASDSA Position Statement on Sunscreen Use in Schools
The ASDSA Policy Research and Priorities Work Group completed a position statement[i] on sunscreen use in schools in 2013.

Citing that the use of sunscreen at a young age is a critical and necessary component of skin cancer prevention, the Work Group concluded that ASDSA should advocate in favor of statewide policies that allow students to apply, carry, and store sunscreen for personal use in school. ASDSA was also directed to support education initiatives designed to encourage and promote smart, safe sunscreen use among students.

Additionally, the Work Group recommended that ASDSA oppose any 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. ASDSA is also opposed to any policies that would prevent sunscreen from being provided to students by school district officials.

Other Organizational Opinions on Sunscreen Use in School
The American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates adopted a policy[ii] regarding sunscreen use in schools at their 2013 Annual Meeting. The resolution states that the AMA supports an exemption of sunscreen from over-the-counter medication possession bans in schools and encourages all schools to allow students to bring and possess sunscreen without restriction and without requiring physician authorization. Additionally the AMA House of Delegates also adopted a policy at their 2014 Annual Meeting titled "Protecting the Public from Dangers of Ultraviolet Radiation"[iii]. This policy encourages physicians to counsel their patients on sun-protective behavior and also calls on the AMA to support the dissemination of information to physicians and the public about the dangers of ultraviolet light from sun exposure.

MD Anderson has created an age-appropriate strategy[iv] to help teach kids about sun protection. Using a superhero-inspired adventure titled "Ray and the Sunbeatables,"MD Anderson teaches children how to protect themselves from the dangers of UV radiation exposure. They also provide ideas for curricula that is offered to teachers.

Existing Statute
Currently, only three states explicitly permit the use of sunscreen in schools without a prescription. While this does not necessarily mean that other states do not allow the use of sunscreen in school, without a law in place stating that it must be permitted, the individual schools are able to make their own policy either allowing or banning the possession of

application of sunscreen. For example, Arizona implemented a law in 2005[v] that requires all public schools to incorporate instruction into the existing curricula regarding skin cancer prevention. The law states that instruction shall be provided in an age appropriate manner and shall include at least the basic facts about skin cancer, including the negative impact of human exposure to UV radiation obtained through sunburns and tanning.

In 2002, the California legislature passed a law[vi] that states that each school shall allow pupils to use sunscreen during the school day without a prescription. The law also calls for each school to set a sunscreen policy and allow for articles of sun-protective clothing to be worn outside (including hats).

In 2015, the Oregon legislature passed a law[vii] that states each school should allow the outdoor use of sun-protective clothing (including hats) and the application of and use of nonprescription sunscreen by students is allowed without any documentation from a licensed health care professional. One difference from this law and the law in California, is that this law explicitly allows (but does not require) school personnel to assist students in applying sunscreen.

Also in 2015, Texas passed a law[viii] that states that a student may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-related event or activity.

Federal Efforts

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report on "evidence-based skin cancer protection" which highlights opportunities to reduce the risk of skin cancer. The CDC calls for increased opportunities for sun protection in outdoor settings, including increasing shade and providing support for other methods of sun protection in schools and occupational settings – especially for recess and other outdoor school activity areas.

Further, they mention that the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends counseling children, adolescents, and young adults with fair skin about minimizing their exposure to UV to reduce risk of skin cancer. They believe it is important to align sun protection messages with other physical activity and outdoor recreation messages, such as reminders to wear wide-brimmed hats when walking or to reapply sunscreen during water breaks.

Additionally, the CDC believes that school policies that prohibit hats or student possession of sunscreen can create barriers to the use of important sun protection methods. School policies that support sun protection include education on UV exposure, providing shade, and encouraging students to use sun protection.

According to the CDC, cities have been becoming more active in developing easy-to-implement sun-safe practices. Miami Beach, Florida, and Boston, Massachusetts, partner with community groups to provide free sunscreen dispensers in outdoor public areas. Montclair, New Jersey, has a goal to become the "sun-smartest city in America" by working to implement strategies outlined by the CDC[ix].

In their Skin Cancer Prevention Progress Report[x], the CDC released statistics that look at the existence of school policies regarding sun protection. In 2012, only 1.5% of schools required and 44% of schools recommended that students apply sunscreen at school.

Literature Summary

A 1999 study in the *Preventive Medicine* journal[xi] measured Australian children's knowledge and attitudes relevant to sun protection. Their results indicated that children's knowledge of sun protection is moderately high and that positive attitudes regarding sun protection were also high. However, trends for age indicate that while knowledge of sun protection increases with age, attitudes and behaviors supportive of sun protection decline. They conclude that mid-primary school years may be a critical time for interventions promoting sun protection.

A 2002 study[xii] included in the *Pediatrics* journal concludes that many children are at subsequent risk of skin cancer because of suboptimal sunscreen use, high rates of sunburning and tanning bed use. They suggest that programs which recommended improved sun protection and avoidance of tanning beds and sunburning, which began in the early 1990s, have been primarily unheeded. The study calls for a nationally coordinated campaign with strong policy components to prevent skin cancer in a new generation of children and adolescents.

A 2012 study[xiii] in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* sought to examine trends in sunscreen use between the years 1999-2009 among U.S. high school students. They conclude that because of declines in sunscreen use, professionals in clinical, school and community settings should emphasize the important role sunscreen may play in preventing skin cancer.

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[i] ASDSA Position on Sunscreen Use in Schools
[ii] AMA Policy: *Permitting Sunscreen in Schools;* H-440.841
[iii] AMA Policy: *Protecting the Public from Dangers of Ultraviolet Radiation";* H-440.839
[iv] MD Anderson CATCH Program
[v] Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-718
[vi] Cal. Edc. Code § 35183.5
[vii] Or. Rev. Stat. § 339.874
[viii] Tex. Edu. Code § 2.38a
[ix] CDC Parks and Recreation Sun-Safe Strategies
[x] CDC Skin Cancer Prevention Progress Report
[xi] Dixon, H., Borland, R., & Hill, D. (1999). Sun Protection and Sunburn in Primary School Children: The Influence of Age, Gender, and Coloring. *Preventive Medicine*, *28*(2), 119-130. Retrieved from http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0091743598903929
[xii] Geller, A. C., Colditz, G., Oliveria, S., Jorgenson, C., Emmons, K., Aweh, G., & Frazier, L. (2002). Use of Sunscreen, Sunburning Rates, and Tanning Bed Use Among More Than 10 000 US Children and Adolescents [Abstract]. *Pediatrics*, *109*(6). Retrieved February 12, 2016, from http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/109/6/1009.short
[xiii] *Trends in Sunscreen Use Among U.S. High School Students: 1999–2009*
Jones, Sherry Everett et al. Journal of Adolescent Health , Volume 50 , Issue 3 , 304 – 307 Retrieved from http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(11)00157-1/abstract?cc=y=