

Students

Welfare

MANAGEMENT OF FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS

5516

The Fairfield Board of Education recognizes the increasing prevalence of potentially life-threatening food allergies among children. Effective management of food allergies in the school setting includes implementing strategies for avoidance of offending foods by allergic children and emergency planning to ensure prompt identification and treatment of allergic reactions that may occur. The Board supports the education of school personnel, students, and parents or guardians regarding food allergy management to maintain a safe school environment for allergic children.

Approved 8/27/04

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS

5516AR

The goal of the following administrative regulations is to assist an identified allergic student* in avoiding exposure to allergens. It is recognized, however, that the school district cannot guarantee the elimination of allergens from the school environment.

Recognizing that peanuts, peanut products, tree nuts, and tree nut products can be associated with the most severe types of allergic reactions, they shall not knowingly be used for instructional purposes.

Recognizing the need for reliable communications from all student locations to the school office, all schools shall have a facility-specific communications system, such as a walkie-talkie, available to summon help to any location in an emergency during the time classes are in session. If an emergency occurs during an activity that takes place at a time other than when classes are in session, emergency medical services shall be utilized by calling (9) 9-1-1.

School personnel will not attempt to determine whether foods brought to school are safe for an allergic child to consume.

School personnel will implement, in collaboration with the school nurse, parent or guardian, and student a written plan for the avoidance of offending foods by an identified allergic student. This plan will be communicated to all personnel with whom the student has contact during the school day including the bus driver(s) if transportation is provided. Specific provision will be made to share the plan with substitute personnel. (Please refer to the School Nurse's Role in Management and Emergency Planning.)

Recognizing the need for identified students to avoid specific allergens, the elements of a plan may include, but are not limited to, the following provisions, as may be warranted by the needs of the individual identified allergic student:

- The provision to provide the parent or guardian, staff, and students with detailed information regarding the ingredients of the school lunch.
- The provision of an identified allergen-free table in the school cafeteria which is thoroughly washed prior to the first lunch shift and in between lunch shifts.

* An "identified allergic student" is one for whom the school nurse has a written plan for allergy avoidance and a written emergency plan to be followed in the event an allergic student ingests or believes he has ingested an offending food. The school nurse will require documentation of the food allergy by the student's health provider as specified in the School Nurse's Role in Management and Emergency Planning.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON
MANAGEMENT OF FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS
(continued)**

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- The provision for washing classroom desktops as necessary to remove identified allergens.
- The provision for staff and students who have been in contact with an allergen to wash thoroughly before resuming contact with an allergic student.
- The provision on field trips, if an allergic student will eat lunch or snacks other than those brought from home, for the menu to be reviewed by the parent or guardian prior to the trip to determine whether the child may eat the food. If the parent or guardian is unable to make the determination or the menu is unavailable, the parent or guardian will send a safe food on the trip with the student. High school students may be able to make their own safe choices. Epinephrine shall accompany the allergic student on field trips and be readily available. A communication system for calling an EMS shall be available at all times on field trips.
- The provision for all classroom lessons in art, family and consumer science, mathematics, and other subjects that use food for instructional purposes to not knowingly include offending foods when an allergic student is present.
- The provision for epinephrine to be available as required by the severity of the student's allergy.

8/27/04