

STUDENT ALLERGY POLICY

The Districts recognize the increasing prevalence of student allergies and the life-threatening nature of the allergies for many students. The administration shall develop and implement procedures to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to students, to educate all members of the school community, and to plan for the individual needs of students with life threatening allergies. Further, these procedures will aim to assist students in assuming more individual responsibility for their health and safety as they grow older, and to ensure full participation in school activities

The procedures will be reviewed annually and modified as appropriate and will include the following:

A. Education and training: The District will provide annual education and training to all appropriate personnel on management of student allergies. The training will address prevention efforts, information about common allergens, and recognition of signs of an allergic reaction, emergency response plan, and epi-pen administration where appropriate.

B. Individualized planning and accommodations: An Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) or Emergency Health Care Plan that addresses the management of anaphylaxis will be developed for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy. A copy of the Plan will be provided to the classroom teacher and substitute caller.

C. Classroom management procedures: Appropriate accommodations will be made in the classroom, including designation of the classroom as “allergen-free” as necessary. Procedures will address education of parents and students for planning for special events involving food.

D. Common Use Areas: The procedures will address foods used in common areas and cleaning of those areas, including use of those areas by groups other than students.

E. Kitchen and cafeteria procedures: The food service staff must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all food items offered to a student with life-threatening allergies are free of ingredients suspected of causing the allergic reaction. Kitchen and cafeteria practices will be aimed at minimizing the cross-contamination of foods. Cafeteria procedures must address proper oversight and cleaning of allergen-free tables.

F. Maintenance procedures: The Director of Maintenance must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all maintenance staff are informed and trained in proper procedures for

maintaining allergen free classrooms and common areas where necessary.

G. Transportation procedures: School buses and vans must have a working means of two way communication and a plan to check the communication system periodically. Bus and van drivers must have an emergency response plan. The eating and sharing of food will be prohibited on transportation routes unless medically indicated for a student.

H. Field trip procedures: Planning for field trips will include plans to implement a student's IHCP, and identification of the communication system (cell phone, walkie-talkie etc). A trained staff member designated by the school nurse will attend field trips which include a student with a life-threatening allergy in the event that the parent doesn't attend.

I. Emergency response procedures: All staff members supervising students with life threatening allergies must have a means of communication to call for assistance. The school nurse or another school staff member trained to administer epinephrine in accordance with 105 CMR 210 must be available in each school facility during the school day.

J. Procedures for handling epinephrine: Each school must maintain a current supply of epinephrine by auto-injector (epi-pens) and must comply with all Department of Public Health regulations for administration, storage, and record-keeping concerning epinephrine. The school nurse chairperson shall register with the Department of Public Health and shall train other school personnel to administer epinephrine in accordance with 105 CMR 210. All staff members will be informed of the location of the epi-pens.

K. Notification of Incident: The Building School Principal or designee shall be responsible for immediately notifying parents and/or guardians of any incident.

APPROVED: May 12, 2008

Reviewed: May 12, 2014

Cross References: [Massachusetts Department of Education, Managing Life Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Fall 2002](#)
[IDEA](#)
[ADA-Title II](#)
[USDA Federal Regulations 7 CFR 210.10](#)
[ADFA – Life Threatening Allergy Policy](#)