

STUDENT PERSONNEL
Series 500

Policy Title: LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

Code: 505.7

The Board of Trustees of this district recognize that severe allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods and other allergens can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for allergic students.

District Responsibilities

1. Assure that the district has taken all necessary steps to:

- Review the health record submitted by parents/guardians and physicians.
- Not exclude students from school activities solely based on child's allergies.
- Identify a core team of, but not limited to, teacher, principal and food service coordinator to work with parents/guardians to establish prevention policies to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- See to it that everyone who interacts with the student on a regular basis understands the student's allergies, can recognize common symptoms, know what to do in an emergency and works with other district personnel to work toward eliminating the use of food allergens in the classroom as educational tools, arts and craft projects, or incentives.
- Make sure that medications are appropriately stored, see that an emergency kit is available that contains a physician's standing order and epinephrine, and that medications are kept easily accessible to designated staff.
- Designate school personnel to administer medications.
- Always be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that a staff member is available who can administer medications during the students' school day regardless of time and location.
- Review policies after a reaction has occurred.
- Enforce no eating on school buses.
- Discuss field trips with family to decide how to handle them.
- Follow State/District guidelines regarding sharing medical information about the student.
- Inform parents/guardians and district staff that:

“Homemade” or “home baked” foods for classroom parties or school/classroom fundraising events shall be discouraged or disallowed. The danger of complications with food allergies and discrimination against students with a diabetic condition make this rule necessary.

Life Threatening Allergies Policy – 505.7 (continued)

Teachers are to avoid using food items such as candy, cookies and/or other snack items as a “reward” for classroom behavior or accomplishments. Reward items other than food are to be used in such instances.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Notify the school of their child’s allergies.
2. Provide written medical documentation, instructions and medication as directed by a physician. Include a photo of the child on the written form.
3. Work with the school team to develop a plan to accommodate the child’s needs to include time in the classroom, on the bus and in the cafeteria.
4. Replace medications after use or upon expiration.
5. Educate the child in the self-management of their allergy including:
 - Safe and unsafe foods
 - Strategies for avoidance of unsafe foods or situations
 - Symptoms of allergic reactions
 - How and when to tell an adult they have been stung or exposed to an allergen
 - How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
 - How to read food labels (if age appropriate)

Date of Adoption: 8/25/08
Readopted: July 2009

Legal References:

Related References: Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers policy # 505.6