

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs (Food Allergy Management)

The purpose of this policy is to establish a safe environment for students with food allergies and glycogen storage disease and to support parents regarding food allergy management. In accordance with applicable law, it is the policy of the Board of Education to provide all students, through necessary accommodations where required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

The Board recognizes the need to help the allergic child avoid foods to which the child is allergic and to establish emergency procedures to treat allergic reactions that may occur. In some cases, a student's disability may prevent him/her from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

Substitutions to the regular meal will be made for students who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified in writing by a physician. Meal service shall be provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the disabled student.

The nature of the student's disability, the reason the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meals, including foods to be omitted from the student's diet, indication of the major life activity affected by the disability, the specific diet prescription along with the substitution(s) needed will be specifically described in a statement signed by a licensed physician. The district, in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Division guidelines, will provide substitute meals to food-allergic students based upon the physician's signed statement.

An Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) shall be developed and implemented for students that are identified with food allergies and glycogen storage disease. In addition, the Board recognizes that students with documented life-threatening food allergies may be considered disabled and eligible for coverage under The Disabilities Act and Public Law 93-112 and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A clearly-defined "504 Accommodation Plan" shall be developed and implemented for all such identified students if it has been properly demonstrated that the child's impairment is such that it substantially limits one or more major life activities, (i.e., the disability must significantly affect a major life function) and necessary accommodations must be made to ensure full participation of identified students in student activities. Such plan shall be signed by the appropriate staff, the parent/guardian of the student and the student's physician.

All schools are also responsible for developing and implementing guidelines for the care of food-allergic students and glycogen storage disease. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, staff development, strategies for identifying students at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions, means to manage the student's allergy including avoidance measures, designation of typical symptoms and dosing instructions for medications.

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The District's plan for managing students with life-threatening food allergies shall be posted on the District's website (and/or on the website of each school within the District).

(Note: In the absence of a district or individual school website, it is suggested that the plan for managing students with life-threatening allergies be included in the student/parent handbook of each school.)

(cf. 5141 - Student Health Services)
(cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication)
(cf. 5141.23 - Students with Special Health Care Needs)
(cf. 5141.3 - Health Assessments)
(cf. 5145.4 - Nondiscrimination)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records.

10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.

10-207 Duties of medical advisors.

10-212a Administrations of medications in schools.

10-212c Life threatening food allergies; Guidelines; district plans, as amended by P.A. 12-198.

10-212a(d) Administration of medications in schools by a paraprofessional.

10-220i Transportation of students carrying cartridge injectors.

19a-900 Use of cartridge injectors by staff members of before or after school programs, day camp or day care facility.

52-557b Good Samaritan Law. Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection.

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies section 10-212a through 10-212a-7, Administration of Medication by School Personnel.

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools, Connecticut State Department of Education (2006)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794 § 504; 34 C.F.R. § 104 et seq.)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.; 29C.F.R. §1630 et seq.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

Land v. Baptist Medical Center, 164F3d423 (8th Cir. 1999)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1976 (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.); 34 C.F.R. § 300 et seq.

FCS Instruction 783-2, Revision 2, Meal substitution for medical or other special dietary reasons.

P.A. 09-155 An Act Concerning the Use of Asthmatic Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors While at School.

Policy adopted: November 16, 2009
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STAFFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stafford Springs, Connecticut

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The risk of accidental exposure to allergy-inducing foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents and physicians to minimize the risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students. National and State guidelines encourage a cooperative relationship among students, parents and staff to make sure that a safe environment exists for all food-allergic students.

Expectations for Schools' Responsibility

The following guidelines apply to staff in Stafford Public Schools. Although schools cannot guarantee an allergy-free environment, the school principal, school nurse and staff should:

1. be knowledgeable about and follow the applicable federal laws, including American Disability Act, IDEA, Section 504, and FERPA and any state laws or district policies that apply;
2. follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student;
3. assign the school nurse to review student health records submitted by parents and physicians;
4. assign the school nurse to develop and implement a School Health Care Plan (see attached "Health Care Plan for Food Allergy") for an individual food-allergic student;
5. avoid excluding students from school activities solely based on their food allergy;
6. identify a core team at each school that may include the school nurse, school medical advisor, teacher, principal, school food services staff and social worker to work with the parents and the student (age appropriate) to implement an individualized School Health Care Plan (sample enclosed) and to communicate that plan to all involved;
7. regularly review the school health care plan and participate (core team) in changes to the prevention plan to promote food allergy management;
8. ensure that all personnel, including food service personnel, substitute teachers and student teachers, who interact with the student on a regular basis, understand food allergy management, can recognize allergic symptoms, know how to respond in an emergency, and work with the other school staff to eliminate the use of food allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational tools, arts and craft projects or incentives;

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9. contact the parent/guardian of the identified allergic child prior to a classroom activity that includes food.
10. review the approved Food Allergy Action Plans specific to each school site at the beginning of the school year to assure the efficiency/effectiveness of the plans;
11. coordinate activities for all students with the school nurse to ensure that medications are appropriately stored in an easily accessible but secure location, central to the designated school personnel;
12. designate school personnel who are properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administrations of emergency medications and provide training on a regular basis;
13. encourage students in grades 6-12, with the permission of their parents/guardians and physician, to carry their medication with them at all times, provided that the school nurse determines, in his/her sole discretion based upon the assessment of the circumstances, that it is appropriate for the student to do so.
14. ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications or superintendent designee, during the school day, regardless of time or location;
15. review policies and the School Health Care Plan with core team members, parents/guardians, student (age appropriate), and possibly school medical advisor after a reaction has occurred;
16. communicate this food allergy policy at the beginning of each school year to all parents via Stafford Public Schools' website policy manual, the health and wellness link and noted in the handbook;
17. provide the school district transportation coordinator with necessary information to inform the dispatcher of the bus company of significant allergies or medical issues and collaborate with the local bus company to assure that school bus drivers are informed of specific food-allergic students with parental permission, provide school bus dispatcher with the list of students with life-threatening food allergies, ensure that the local school bus company has functioning emergency communication device(s) and inform bus drivers of local Emergency Medical Service (EMS) procedures;

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18. maintain policy of not allowing foods or beverages to be consumed on school buses with exceptions made only to accommodate students involved in field trips or after school activities or special needs students under federal or similar laws, or school district policy;
19. include on the field trip permission slips acknowledgement / verification of food allergy management to be reviewed by the school nurse;
20. ensure that food service staff and/or custodial staff will clean all tables after each meal service, review and follow sound food handling and food preparation practices to avoid cross-contamination with potential food allergies;
21. inform food service staff of all food-allergic students and be updated with changes when appropriate;
22. direct food service staff to make required food substitutions with documentation signed by a licensed physician. In order to make appropriate substitutions or modifications of meals served to students with life-threatening food allergies, the physical statement (see attached forms "Medical Statements for Children with Disabilities Requiring Special Meals in Child Nutrition Programs" and "Medical Statement for Children *without* Disabilities Requiring Special Meals in Child Nutrition Programs" must identify the student's disability as defined by USDA guidelines;
23. be aware of and respond accordingly to threats or harassment against an allergic student and take proactive steps to prevent such unacceptable behavior;
24. obtain 2x2 formal school picture for Health Care Plan for student identification.

Expectations for Family's Responsibility

The Board of Education encourages families to adhere to the following guidelines for managing food allergies in the school setting. Families should:

1. notify the school of the student's allergies;
2. provide to the school a history of reactions requiring treatment by a health care provider;
3. work with the Stafford Schools staff to develop a plan that accommodates the student's needs throughout the school including in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in after-care programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus;

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Expectations for Family's Responsibility (continued)

4. provide written medical documentation (see attached "Food Allergy Treatment Plan and Permission for the Administration of Medications By School Personnel") and prescribed medication. Stafford Schools can only accept single dose auto-injectors,
5. replace medications after use, upon expiration, or upon notification from nurse;
6. educate the student in the self-management (age appropriate) of his/her food allergy including safe and unsafe foods, strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods, symptoms of allergic reactions, how and when to tell an adult that he/she may be having an allergy-related problem, how to read food labels.

Expectations for Student Responsibility when Developmentally Appropriate

The Board of Education encourages students to adhere to the following guidelines for managing food allergies in the school setting. As appropriate, students will be instructed by members of the core team to:

1. not trade food with others;
2. not eat anything without a labeled ingredient statement or known to contain an allergen or without parental permission;
3. be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their development level;
4. notify an adult immediately if they eat, contact, or become exposed to something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic or are experiencing any symptoms.

Reference: *Guidelines for Managing Life Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools*, Connecticut- State Department of Education, 2006.
Managing Food Allergy Students, Madison Public Schools, Madison CT, 2002.