

## **STUDENT ALLERGY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

### *Introduction*

The purpose of this policy is to create an organized system for preventing and responding to allergic reactions. This policy is not a guarantee of an allergen-free environment; instead, it is designed to increase awareness, provide education and training, reduce the chance of exposure and outline responses to allergic reactions. The best form of prevention for life-threatening allergies is avoidance of the allergen.

Research shows that allergies can negatively impact student achievement by affecting concentration, auditory processing and attendance. In addition, healthy students are better learners. In addition to posing health risks, allergies can be potentially deadly for some individuals.

This policy applies to District facilities to which students have access and includes transportation provided by the District. The Board instructs the superintendent or designee to develop procedures to implement this policy.

### *Identification*

Each school will attempt to identify students with life-threatening allergies, including food allergies. An allergic reaction is an immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the allergic individual's body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions range from mild to severe, even life-threatening. At enrollment, the person enrolling the student will be asked to provide information on any allergies the student may have. This information will be updated annually thereafter on the Emergency Contact Form.

### *Students with Known Allergies*

Upon receiving documentation of a serious allergy, the nurse will notify the appropriate school staff member to initiate the 504 or IDEA eligibility process. Students with allergies that rise to the level of a disability as defined by law will be accommodated in accordance with District policies and procedures pertaining to the identification and accommodation of students with disabilities. An Individualized Health Plan (IHP), including an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), may be developed by the nurse in conjunction with the parent and physician for students with allergies that do not rise to the level of a disability.

All staff members are required to follow any 504 Plan or IHP in addition to an EAP developed for a student by the District after student-specific training is completed. Staff members who do not follow an existing 504 Plan or IHP along with the EAP will be disciplined, and such discipline may include termination.

### *Prevention*

Staff members shall not use air fresheners, oils, candles or other such items intended to add fragrance in any District facilities. This provision will not be construed to prohibit the use of personal care items that contain added fragrance, but the principal may require staff members to refrain from the use of personal care items with added fragrance under particular circumstances. In the instance that a student has been identified to have an allergy to animals or latex, the principal may prohibit classroom pets, and latex products in the building e.g. balloons.

Staff members are prohibited from using cleaning materials, disinfectants, pesticides or other chemicals except those provided by the District.

The District will not serve any processed foods, including foods sold in vending machines, that are not labeled with a complete list of ingredients. Vended items must include a list of ingredients on the individual package. The food service manager will create an ingredient list for all foods provided by the District as part of the District's nutrition program, including food provided during the school day and in before- and after-school programs. This list will be available upon request.

Prepackaged items used in concessions, school stores, fundraisers and classroom activities must include a list of ingredients on the package. If the package does not contain a list of ingredients, the list of ingredients must be available at the location where the package is sold or provided.

### *Education and Training*

All staff members will be annually trained on the causes and symptoms of and responses to allergic reactions. Training will include instruction on the use of prefilled epinephrine syringes and the administration of asthma-related rescue medications. Staff will also be trained on the requirements of Section 504 and IDEA in regard to allergies.

In accordance with law, qualified employees will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering epinephrine or asthma-related rescue medications in good faith and according to standard medical practices. A qualified employee is one who has been trained to administer medication, including epinephrine, in accordance with standard medical practice.

Age-appropriate education on allergies and allergic reactions will be provided to students as such education aligns with state Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) for health education. Education will include potential causes, information on avoiding allergens, signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and simple steps students can take to keep classmates safe.

### *Confidentiality*

Information about individual students with allergies will be provided to all staff members and others who need to know the information to provide a safe learning environment for the student. Information about individual students with allergies will not be shared with students and others who do not have a legitimate educational interest in the information only to the extent authorized by the parent/guardian or as otherwise permitted by law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### *Response*

Response to an allergic reaction shall be in accordance with established procedures, including application of the student's Section 504 Plan or IHP as well as the EAP. Information about known allergies will be shared in accordance with FERPA. Each Special School District building will maintain an adequate supply of prefilled epinephrine auto to be administered in accordance with Board policy.

Adopted: March 8, 2011

Revised: June 25, 2013

Cross Refs AC, Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation  
ADF, District Wellness Program  
EBBA, Illness and Injury Response and Prevention  
ECG, Animals on District Property  
EF, Food Services Management  
EFB, Free and Reduced-Cost Food Services  
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
IGD, District-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities and Groups  
IICA, Community-Based Instruction/Community-Based Vocational Instruction  
and Field Trips

Legal Refs: § §167.208, .635, RSMo  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 - 1417  
34 C.F.R. Part 300  
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794  
34 C.F.R. Part 104  
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 - 12213  
National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 - 1769\_  
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1771 - 1785  
7 C.F.R. Parts 210, 220, 227