

Food Allergies

Approved 5.21.2012

The Board of Education recognizes that food allergies in some instances may be severe and even life threatening. As mandated by Section 3313.719 of the Ohio Revised Code, this policy is intended to create a framework for accommodating students with food allergies and to reduce the likelihood of allergic reactions of students with known food allergies while at school.

A. Parent/guardians and student responsibilities

1. Parents and guardians of students with allergies, or students with allergies age eighteen or older, shall:
 - Notify the school Director, nurse, or health maintenance worker when they become aware that their student has a food allergy and at the beginning of each school year thereafter. The notice shall include a healthcare provider-documented allergy and a diet modification order as necessary;
 - Provide the school with prescribed emergency medications;
 - Execute medication authorization form, and/or permission to carry and self-administer epinephrine auto-injector (epi-pen) form, as well as the following documentation, as appropriate:
 - I. Food allergy action plan;
 - II. Anaphylaxis emergency action plan;
 - III. Diet order
2. Parent and guardians will be responsible for educating their students about allergy management at school. Allergy management and education includes, without limitation, identification of "safe foods" by reviewing together breakfast and lunch menus and discussion of the vigilance required to self-monitor food products available at other school functions and in school vending machines.

B. School responsibilities

1. The school will cooperate in the development of a food allergy action plan for students with food allergies. The food allergy action plan will address the actions to be taken to reduce exposure at school, and what actions will be taken in the event of exposure. The plan shall be developed through consultation with the school nurse or health maintenance worker, parents/guardians of the student, and the student's health care provider. The plan will be effective for the school year in which it is developed and shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised at the beginning of each following school year.
2. With parental consent, the school will share the food allergy action plan with appropriate school staff.
3. Food will not be provided during the school day by means other than the school breakfast, snack, lunch or vending programs except with prior consultation with the Director, school nurse or health maintenance worker, or designee of the Director.

4. At least one employee who has received instruction in the recognition of food allergy reactions will be present when students are being served food during the regular school day.