

## FOOD ALLERGIES

The purpose of this policy is to establish a safe environment for students with food allergies and to support parents regarding food allergy management. In accordance with Ohio 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 school programs and activities.

The Board of Education takes food allergies seriously and understands that food allergies can be life threatening. Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting, the District administration is committed to minimizing risks and providing a safe educational environment for food allergic students. Students with dietary needs that qualify as disabilities under State and Federal law are provided reasonable accommodation.

Substitutions to regular school meals provided by the District are made for students who are unable to eat regular school meals due to a qualifying dietary need when that need is certified in writing by the student's physician. Substitute meals are provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the special needs of the student.

The nature of the student's qualifying dietary need, the reason this need prevents the student from eating regular school meals, and the specific diet prescription along with the needed substitution must be specifically stated in the physician's statement (including foods to be omitted from the student's diet). The District, in compliance with the USDA Child Nutrition Division guidelines, provides substitute meals to food-allergic students based upon the physician's signed statement.

The administration consults with parents, the school district nurse, school health specialists and other school employees, school volunteers, students and community members to gather information for the development and implementation of a food allergy plan. The plan includes, but is not limited to, school-wide training programs regarding food allergy education, staff development regarding food allergy identification and management, strategies for the identification of students with life-threatening food allergies and management skills including avoidance measures, emergency procedures, designation of typical symptoms, and dosing instructions for medications.

[Adoption date: August 16, 2011]

LEGAL REFS: Child Nutrition Act of 1966; 42 USC 1771 et seq.  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et. seq  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 794 et. seq.  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.  
ORC 3313.719, 3313.81  
OAC 3301-91-01 through 3301-91-08