

STUDENTS

Policy 2875
(Regulation 2875)

Student Services

Student Allergy Prevention and Response

The purpose of this Policy is to establish an organized system for preventing and responding to allergic reactions. This Policy does not guarantee 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.

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

An allergic reaction is an immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions range from mild to life-threatening. Each school in the District will attempt to identify students with life-threatening allergies, including food allergies. At enrollment, the person enrolling the student will be asked to provide information on any allergies the student may have.

Prevention

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. The District may develop an Individualized Health Plan (IHP), including an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), for a student whose allergies do not rise to the level of a disability..

All staff members are required to follow any 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP developed for a student by the District. Staff members who do not follow an existing 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP will be disciplined, up to and including termination.

Staff members may not use air fresheners, oils, candles, incense 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.

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, which are not labeled with a complete list of ingredients. Vended items must include a list of ingredients

on the individual package. The food service director 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, 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 epinephrine delivery systems. An "epinephrine delivery system" means a single-use device or system used to deliver a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body and includes premeasured auto-injection devices, nasal sprays, and other delivery systems permitted by law.

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 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 or 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 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP, where applicable. *Each building will maintain an adequate supply of epinephrine delivery systems to be administered in accordance with Board policy, OR Parents of students with life-threatening allergies should supply the school with epinephrine delivery systems to be administered in accordance with Board policy.*

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Approved Update September 2026

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The school nurse shall oversee the administration of these procedures in consultation with the food service director, the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), the wellness committee, the transportation director, local health authorities and, where appropriate, the special education director or 504 coordinator.

Definitions

“*Allergen*” means a substance that triggers an allergic reaction.

“*Allergic Reaction*” means an immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions trigger inflammation in the skin (hives, itching, a rash); in the respiratory system (coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing); in the gastrointestinal tract (vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain); and the cardiovascular system (lowered blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, shock). Anaphylaxis is another type of allergic reaction.

“*Anaphylaxis*” means a life-threatening allergic reaction that involves the entire body. It may be characterized by symptoms such as lowered blood pressure, wheezing, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea and swelling and hives. Anaphylaxis may result in shock or death.

“*Emergency Action Plan*” or “*EAP*” means a written plan for students who have life-threatening conditions, such as an allergy. An EAP is designed to inform school district personnel who may be called upon to respond.

“*Epinephrine Delivery System*” means a single-use device or system used to deliver a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body. Epinephrine delivery systems include premeasured auto-injection devices, nasal sprays, and other delivery systems permitted by law.

“*Individualized Health Plan*” or “*IHP*” means a document created by the District in cooperation with the student’s parent or guardian and, when appropriate, a student’s health care provider for students who have specific health care needs. It is a nursing care plan that has student-centered goals and objectives and describes the nursing interventions designed to meet the student’s short and long-term goals.

“*Life-Threatening Allergy*” means an allergic reaction that is severe enough to potentially cause death.

General

In accordance with Board policy, the nurse or designee will provide training to all staff members about the causes and symptoms of and responses to allergic reactions and the proper administration of epinephrine. This training will be provided to current staff members within 30 calendar days of the adoption of the Allergy Prevention and Response policy and on an annual basis thereafter. Staff members who are hired after this training has been conducted will be provided the information within 10 calendar days of the first day of employment.

Pursuant to Board policy, students may carry medication for the treatment of allergies. In addition, epinephrine delivery systems are available in each building and stored in the following locations:

Green City R-1 School District: Nurse's Office

Response to an Allergic Reaction

Any staff member who becomes aware that a student is having an allergic reaction must:

1. Stay with the student;
2. Notify the nurse immediately or direct another person to do so; and
3. Contact the parents.

If a staff member determines that the allergic reaction is potentially life-threatening the staff member will implement the student's 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP if the staff member is familiar with the plan.

If the student does not have a 504 Plan, IHP or EAP, the staff member is not familiar with the 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP or such plan is not immediately available, the staff member will immediately take or direct another person to take the following actions.

1. Call 911.
2. Notify the school nurse or, if the nurse is not available, notify _____ (designee).
3. Administer epinephrine, if available, at the direction of the school nurse or designee. If the school nurse or designee is not present, the staff member may administer epinephrine, if available, pursuant to the staff member's training, if the staff member determines it is necessary to safeguard the student's health.
4. Notify the parents.

5. Provide first responders with information about the student's allergy and reaction and any actions already taken.
6. A staff member will remain with the student until a parent or guardian or emergency contact arrives or until the student is transported from the district by first responders.

As soon as possible after the life-threatening allergic reaction, the nurse will consult with the 504 compliance coordinator and the student's parent or guardian to determine whether a 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP would be appropriate for the student.

Instructional Areas

No food preparation or consumption will take place in any instructional area unless the instructor has permission from the building administrator. Courses that include food preparation or consumption as a regular part of the curriculum are exempt from this provision, but instructors in these courses have an increased responsibility to monitor student adherence to prevention procedures.

Dining Areas

The school nurse or designee will provide the food service director with a copy of any 504 Plan or IHP that concerns diet, along with a photograph of the student. Any 504 Plan or IHP that requires food substitutions must include a written statement from a licensed physician that:

1. Describes the disability or condition.
2. Explains how the student is restricted as a result of the disability or condition.
3. Identifies the major life activities affected by the disability or condition.
4. Lists omitted and permitted substitute foods.

The food service director will provide information to food service personnel as necessary. Food service personnel will not act on individual requests for dietary accommodations. If a student or parent/guardian of a student who does not have a 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP on file with the food service director requests an accommodation, he or she will be referred to the school nurse and/or the Section 504 Coordinator for assistance.

The food service director will arrange for all food service staff to be trained in food label reading, cross-contamination avoidance, safe food handling and food item labeling requirements.

If there is any change in the menu after the menu has been posted, the food service director will notify the school nurse or designee. The nurse or designee will notify parents of students with a 504 Plan, IHP, or EAP for food allergies, if necessary and applicable.

The principal may designate one or more tables in the dining area as peanut-free or nut-free areas. Any student may use these tables but may not have any food or beverage that contains or may contain peanuts or other nuts. If any student has been identified as having life-threatening allergies to a food

or beverage other than peanuts or nuts, the principal may instead designate one or more tables as allergen-free areas and specify the prohibited foods and beverages. Staff responsible for cleaning dining areas will clean any such designated tables before each use according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommendations using separate cleaning supplies. No student will be required to sit at the designated table.

Staff members supervising dining areas will promote a "no sharing/no trading" environment to prevent students from trading food, beverages or dining utensils.

Transportation and Off-Site Activities

Except as otherwise outlined in this procedure, drivers will not allow students to eat or drink on District transportation unless the student has written permission from the student's building principal. Written permission will be provided if the student has a medical need to consume food or beverages during the time the student is transported. A student who has a medical need to consume food or beverages on District transportation must have an IEP, 504 Plan, or IHP that addresses which foods or beverages the student may consume.

Students being transported to and from activities on District transportation may be allowed to consume food and beverages if the staff member serving as sponsor has verified that none of the students being transported have documented life-threatening food allergies.

Staff members must submit a list of students taking part in off-site activities, such as competitions and field trips, to the nurse at least five days prior to the activity. The nurse will verify which, if any, students have allergies and provide the staff member with a copy of the relevant 504 Plans or IHPs or EAPs and any medications that may be needed in the case of an allergic reaction.

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