

Policy Number: 453.6

Title: **Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies**

Adopted: July 20, 2009

The Barron Area School District cannot guarantee an allergy free environment. Because each student's allergy and situation is different, an individualized plan of action may be created for some students. The diagnosis of allergy with a risk of anaphylactic reaction is made on the basis of the student's history and confirmed with the appropriate skin and/or blood tests. Treatment protocols should be physician prescribed for use in the school setting.

The following rules have been developed in order to properly accommodate students with special dietary needs (food allergies) that pertain to life threatening allergies.

1. Each school shall establish a method of ensuring that relevant information is transmitted to all supervising persons of an identified student. The school nurse, along with the parents, physician, teacher and any person supervising a student, will develop an Accommodation Plan, if needed. The parent, nurse and physician will develop an Emergency Health Plan. This shall be done for students with identified food allergies, especially those which may be life threatening, including, but not limited to peanut allergies.
2. The primary concern of the school is the prevention and appropriate treatment of potentially severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).
3. Before the school year begins, parents with allergic children must provide the school with a current individualized action plan prepared by the child's physician.
4. At-risk students should have some means of identification, such as a medical alert bracelet.
5. Most food allergic children bring their lunch from home. However, guidelines established by the USDA Child Nutrition Division in charge of school lunches, requires school food service staff to provide substitute meals to allergic students if the student's physician sends written instructions certifying the child's allergy and what foods are to be avoided and safe substitutions.
6. A "no food trading" policy will be enforced.
7. Parents will be encouraged to review/preview menus in order to select safe foods their child may eat.
8. Consider the following avoidance strategies, due to the fact that risk can never be fully eliminated in the school environment:
  - a. Parents should be encouraged to instruct their children in how to avoid contact with substances to which they are allergic.
  - b. Carefully monitor identified children, especially in the younger grades.
  - c. Allergic children should consider eating foods that are only prepared at home.
  - d. Students should be encouraged not to exchange foods or utensils with other students.
  - e. Surfaces, toys and equipment should be washed clean of allergy containing foods.
  - f. Food personnel should be instructed about necessary measures required to prevent cross-contamination during food handling, preparation and serving of food.
  - g. Establish a "buddy system" for identified students.
  - h. Provide staff updates.

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9. Provide training for staff in basic first aid, resuscitative techniques, and in the use of epinephrine auto injections.
10. Epinephrine should be kept in close proximity to students at risk of anaphylaxis. **In all cases when** it is administered, the student must be sent to the hospital immediately.