

ALLERGY-FRIENDLY FOOD POLICY

STUDENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL POLICY #3.10

ADOPTED: 10/27/2014

The purpose of this policy is to ensure an environment where all students are safe, including those with food allergies. Vista Oaks Charter School will uphold a school-wide plan for addressing life threatening allergic reactions and putting guidelines and procedures in place to minimize the chance of a child experiencing a life threatening reaction.

The Executive Director or designee shall develop guidelines for the care of food-allergic students. These guidelines will include strategies to:

- Identify - Identifying students at-risk for allergic reactions
- Educate - Educating and training staff regarding symptoms and actions to be taken in the event of a severe allergic reaction
- Prevent - Establishing expectations that will minimize the chance of a child experiencing a life threatening reaction
- Respond – Outlining how staff will respond in the event of an emergency

Identifying Students

If a child has a known food allergy, the parents/guardians shall notify the Executive Director or designee in writing. The parents/guardian will complete a “Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan” that will provide information that includes:

- The nature of the allergy
- The severity of the allergy
- What triggers the allergic reaction?
- The medications/doses prescribed
- Instructions for actions to be taken if the student suffers an allergic reaction at school

Educating Staff, Students, and Others

Vista Oaks will provide yearly training to all staff members that work with students identified as having a severe food allergy. Information will include:

- Symptoms, prevention, and school expectations for providing a safe environment for students with severe allergies
- Training in administering epinephrine
- Awareness and review of students’ Care Plans and instructions for actions to be taken

Prevention

Vista Oaks seeks to minimize the chance of a child experiencing a life-threatening allergy. The following will be implemented to provide a safe learning environment for our students with food allergies:

- Staff will be notified of any students with known food allergies, as well as the student's Care Plan.
- For onsite classes, there will be no food or drinks (except water) allowed in the classrooms unless approval is given by the Executive Director or designee. If a food item will be used for a classroom activity (such as a science experiment), the teacher will receive preapproval from the Executive Director and Allergy Safety Team.
- Food will not be used as incentives or rewards.
- Birthday favors shared by younger students will not include food items.
- Special events that include food items will be carefully planned and be certain to include only allergy-friendly foods.
- Tables and classroom surfaces will be cleaned with appropriate cleaning materials to effectively remove allergens.
- Staff shall promote hand-washing using soap and water before and after handling food.
- Families will be informed and reminded that foods including peanuts or nuts of any kind are not allowed on the school's campus.
- Students will be closely supervised during lunch and snack times, watching for both symptoms of allergic reactions and ensuring foods brought by all students are nut-free.

Responding

In the event of an emergency due to a severe allergic reaction, staff will:

- Follow the steps outlined on the student's "Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan."
- Use the epinephrine auto-injector or other medicine provided for use in the event of an anaphylactic shock reaction.
- School staff shall call 911 and seek immediate medical attention for a student experiencing an anaphylactic shock reaction.
- School staff shall contact the student's parents/guardians or other emergency contact.