

Canton ISD Guidelines for Managing Students with Food Allergies

Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of Accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students.

Family's Responsibility

- Notify the school of the child's allergies.
- Work with the school team to develop a plan that accommodates the child's needs throughout the school, including in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in after school programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus, as well as a Food Allergy Action Plan.
- Provide written documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician, using the Food Allergy Action Plan as a guide. Include a photo of the child on written form.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration.
- Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including: safe and unsafe foods, strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods, symptoms of allergic reactions, how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem, how to read food labels (age appropriate)
- Review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide emergency contact information.

School's Responsibility

- Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable federal laws including ADA, IDEA, Section 504, and FERPA and state laws or district policies that apply.
- Review health records submitted by parents and physicians.
- Include food-allergic students in school activities. Students should not be excluded from school activities solely based on their food allergy.
- Identify a core team of, but not limited to, school nurse, teacher, principal, school food and nutrition services, and counselor (if available) to work with parents and the student (age appropriate) to establish a prevention plan to promote food allergy management and should be made with team participation.
- Assure that all staff who interact with the student on a regular basis understands food allergy, can recognize symptoms, knows what to do in an emergency, and works with other school staff to eliminate the use of food allergens in the allergic student's meals, and educational tools.

- Practice the Food Allergy Action Plans before an allergic reaction occurs to assure the efficiency/effectiveness of the plans.
- Coordinate with the school nurse that medications are properly stored. Students should be allowed to carry their own epinephrine, if age appropriate after approval from the student's physician/clinic, parent and school nurse, and allowed by local and state regulations.
- Designate school personnel who are trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.
- Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location.
- Review guidelines/prevention plan with the core team members, parents/guardians, student (age appropriate), and physician after reaction a reaction has occurred.
- Work with the district transportation administrator to assure that school bus driver training includes symptom awareness and what to do if a reaction occurs.
- Recommend that all buses have communication devices in case of an emergency.
- Enforce "no eating" guidelines on school buses with exceptions made only to accommodate special needs under federal or similar laws or school district guidelines. Discuss appropriate management of food allergy with family.
- Discuss field trips with the family of the food-allergic child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.
- Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student.
- Take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously.

Student's Responsibility

- Should not trade food with others.
- Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.