

## **STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES/SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Monticello School District is dedicated to fostering the health, nutrition, and well-being of students with food allergies by providing education and a supportive community. For anyone living with chronic health conditions requiring special dietary needs such as food allergies, the teaching and fostering of self-management skills is crucial to optimizing health and social normalcy. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to School District staff in these situations.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Since schools cannot guarantee a food safe environment, upon request the school district will take measures to minimize the risk of an exposure, as well as educate select employees and volunteers to respond appropriately to life-threatening reactions.
- B. The School District will provide a “food allergy aware” environment for a student with a known food allergy, without banning the food product at school. Structural supports and protocols, which establish best practices for child(ren) with food allergies, will be followed. This includes instruction and education to improve personal food allergy management skills in the confines of a “food allergy aware” school. In addition, the school will develop an accommodation plan as warranted.
- C. If a student has special dietary needs, the food service department will make dietary accommodations in accordance with applicable provisions of the USDA regulations, when supported by a special dietary statement completed ~~from~~ by a licensed medical physician.
- D. The special dietary statement must contain the following information to meet USDA requirements:
  - 1. Food or allergen to be avoided,
  - 2. Explanation of how exposure would affect the student
  - 3. Foods to be substituted
  - 4. Be completed and signed by a state licensed medical authority to include medical physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
- E. The special dietary statement must be received and approved by the food service director before accommodations begin. The food service director will contact the parents/guardians to inform them of approval or denial of requested accommodations. The food service department has 24 hours after receipt of the completed special dietary statement before accommodations begin.

Approved 04/02/12      Revised 11/09/20

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