

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
SALEM, CONNECTICUT

STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs (Food Allergy Management)

The purpose of this policy is to establish a safe environment for students with food allergies and glycogen storage disease and to support parents regarding food allergy management. In accordance with applicable law, it is the policy of the Board of Education to provide all students, through necessary accommodations where required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

The Board recognizes the need to help the allergic child avoid foods to which the child is allergic and to establish emergency procedures to treat allergic reactions that may occur. In some cases, a student's disability may prevent him/her from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

Substitutions to the regular meal will be made for students who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified in writing by a physician. Meal service shall be provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the disabled student.

The nature of the student's disability, the reason the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meals, including foods to be omitted from the student's diet, indication of the major life activity affected by the disability, the specific diet prescription along with the substitution(s) needed will be specifically described in a statement signed by a licensed physician. The district, in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Division guidelines, will provide substitute meals to food-allergic students based upon the physician's signed statement.

An Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) shall be developed and implemented for students that are identified with food allergies and glycogen storage disease. In addition, the Board recognizes that students with documented life-threatening food allergies may be considered disabled and eligible for coverage under The Disabilities Act and Public Law 93-112 and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A clearly-defined "504 Accommodation Plan" shall be developed and implemented for all such identified students if it has been properly demonstrated that the child's impairment is such that it substantially limits one or more major life activities, (i.e., the disability must significantly affect a major life function) and necessary accommodations must be made to ensure full participation of identified students in student activities. Such plan shall be signed by the appropriate staff, the parent/guardian of the student and the student's physician.

All schools are also responsible for developing and implementing guidelines for the care of food-allergic students and glycogen storage disease. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, staff development, strategies for identifying students at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions, means to manage the student's allergy including avoidance measures, designation of typical symptoms and dosing instructions for medications.

The District's plan for managing students with life-threatening food allergies shall be posted on the District's website (and/or on the website of each school within the District).

(Note: In the absence of a district or individual school website, it is suggested that the plan for managing students with life-threatening allergies be included in the student/parent handbook of each school.)

(cf. 5141 – Student Health Services)
(cf. 5141.21 – Administering Medication)
(cf. 5141.3 – Health Assessments)
(cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes: 10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records. 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. 10-207 Duties of medical advisors. 10-212a Administrations of medications in schools. 10-212c Life threatening food allergies; Guidelines; district plans, as amended by P.A. 12-198. 10-212a(d) Administration of medications in schools by a paraprofessional. 10-220i Transportation of students carrying cartridge injectors. 19a-900 Use of cartridge injectors by staff members of before or after school programs, day camp or day care facility. 52-557b Good Samaritan Law. Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies section 10-212a through 10-212a-7, Administration of Medication by School Personnel. Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools, Connecticut State Department of Education (2006). Federal Legislation: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794 § 504; 34 C.F.R. § 104 et seq.) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.; 29C.F.R. §1630 et seq. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). *Land v. Baptist Medical Center*, 164F3d423 (8th Cir. 1999). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1976 (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.); 34 C.F.R. § 300 et seq. FCS Instruction783-2, Revision 2, Meal substitution for medical or other special dietary reasons. P.A. 09-155 An Act Concerning the Use of Asthmatic Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors While at School.

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