



Renaissance Academy

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No. 210.1
SECTION: Pupils
TITLE: Severe Food Allergies
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Severe Food Allergies

1 PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff with the understanding that the school cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy-related event while at school. The purpose of this policy shall be to address the needs of students with severe or life-threatening food allergies, while respecting the rights of all individuals. Severe allergy/anaphylaxis is a health condition that can lead to rapid death; therefore, special preparations are necessary to protect individuals with this condition.

The Board shall establish policy to address food allergy management in district schools in order to:

1. Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life threatening allergic reactions.
2. Ensure a rapid and effective response in the case of a severe or potentially life threatening allergic reaction.
3. Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities, including classroom parties and field trips.

The focus of food allergy management shall be on prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response.

2 AUTHORITY

The Board adopts this policy in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and the guidelines established jointly by the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health on managing severe or life-threatening food allergies in the schools.

The CEO or designee, in coordination with the school nurse(s), or other pertinent staff, shall develop administrative regulations, procedures, and/or guidelines to implement this policy.

Regardless of the allergy, the school will not support a complete ban of specific or specified foods that may contribute to the student's allergy.

3 DEFINITIONS

Anaphylaxis - an exaggerated, life-threatening hypersensitive reaction to a previously encountered allergen.

Common Food Allergens - common foods that are associated with food allergies are: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat and soy.

Emergency Self-Administration - the self-administration of pre-approved medication to avoid immediate and substantial risk to health, including but not limited to Benadryl, self-administration of an Epinephrine Auto-Injector, or an inhaler.

Food Allergy - a food allergy is any reaction to an otherwise harmless food or food component that involves the body's immune system. A reaction occurs when the body's immune system responds abnormally to the protein or proteins in that particular food. The body reacts by flooding the system with histamines and other chemicals to fight off what is perceived as an invader in the body. Reactions to food or food ingredients that do not involve the immune system are called food intolerances or sensitivities.

Food Intolerance - food intolerance is a metabolic disorder and does not involve the immune system. Lactose intolerance is one example of food intolerance. A person with lactose intolerance lacks an enzyme that is needed to digest milk sugar. When a person eats milk products, symptoms such as gas, bloating, and abdominal pain may occur.

4 DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Board authorizes the CEO or his/her designee to implement the guidelines related to severe food allergies to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff, while respecting the rights of all individuals.

References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510 State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.41