

SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY
NEEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FILE

JHCDA

Policy for: LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGY		Revision 0
Date Approved by School Committee: December 7, 2010	Signature of Chair: Connie S. Barr	Page 1 of 2

The Needham Public Schools (NPS) recognizes the increasing prevalence of student food allergies and the life-threatening nature of allergies for many students. The Administration of the NPS shall ensure compliance with the policy and implementation of protocols and procedures to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to students, to educate all members of the school community, and to plan for the individual needs of students with life-threatening food allergies. Further, these policy, protocols, and procedures will aim to assist students with assuming more individual responsibility for their health and safety as they grow older, and to ensure full participation in their educational programs and school sponsored activities. The school day is defined as the hours of the day that students must attend their education program in school. After school hours include NPS sponsored activities, clubs, athletics, community education programs, and parent or community sponsored events.

Protocols and procedures for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies (LTA) in the NPS will be reviewed annually and modified as appropriate, and will include the following:

- 1) District- wide and building-based education and training is offered annually to school personnel about the management of student allergies, recognition of signs of an allergic reaction, activation of the emergency response plan, and the administration of epinephrine via auto injector.
- 2) An individualized health care plan including accommodations for prevention, management and emergency response is developed for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergy.
- 3) Non-curriculum related classroom-based celebrations and parties are food free.
- 4) Inclusion of food for curriculum instruction and related activities or special grade-wide events, requires strict adherence to the food allergy management protocol and consultation with the nurse and approval of the principal.
- 5) The use of food as a reward or incentive during the school day is prohibited, except as indicated in a child's Individualized Education Program.

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- 6) Sales of competitive food or beverages (including bake sales), not sold/provided via School Breakfast or Lunch Programs, are not permitted during the school day nor beyond school hours in pre-K through grade 5. Sales of competitive food or beverages (including bake sales), not sold/provided via School Breakfast or Lunch Programs, are not permitted during the school day, but are permitted beyond school hours, in grades six- twelve.
- 7) NPS Staff employed by NPS to supervise and/or coach students who are participating as members of school-sponsored athletic teams, clubs, and other extracurricular activities beyond the school day are responsible for implementing the applicable portions of the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures for the management of students with LTA while the students are under the staff's supervision.
- 8) Unless otherwise required by law, NPS staff is not responsible for implementing the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures during (1) school sponsored events beyond the school day that are open to the public (e.g. school athletic contests, plays, or ceremonies) or (2) programs or events on NPS property that are sponsored by various parent, community, and private groups.

References

- Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network <http://www.foodallergy.org>
- Managing Life Threatening Allergies in Schools. Massachusetts Department of Education and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2002
- Young, Michael, 2006. The Peanut Allergy Answer Book (2nd Ed). Gloucester, MA: Fair winds Press, pg 118-119

Legal References

- 105 CMR 210.000: The Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private School
- Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71: Section 54B. Administration of medications in school settings; regulation
- American with Disabilities Act and Section 504