Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies

School attendance may increase a student’s risk of exposure to allergens that could trigger a food-allergic reaction. A food allergy is an adverse reaction to a food protein that if exposed to or ingested, triggers the immune system to release histamine and other inflammatory chemicals. While it is not possible for the District to completely eliminate the risks of exposure to allergens when a student is at school, guidelines for managing food allergies using a cooperative effort among students’ families, staff members, and students will help the District reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for allergic reactions.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies that:

1. Fully implements the following goals established in The School Code: (a) identifying students with food allergies, (b) preventing exposure to known allergens, (c) responding to allergic reactions with prompt recognition of symptoms and treatment, and (d) educating and training all staff about management of students with food allergies, including administration of medication with an auto-injector, and providing an in-service training program for staff who work with students.

2. Follows and references the applicable best practices specific to the District’s needs in the joint State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health publication Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools available at:

   www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/food_allergy_guidelines.pdf

3. Complies with state and federal law and is in alignment with Board policies.

LEGAL REF.: 105ILCS 5/2-3.149 and 5/10-22.39.
Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools (Guidelines),
Jointly published by the State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health

CROSS REF.: 4:110 (Transportation), 4:120 (Food Services), 4:170 (Safety), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:240 (Field Trips), 7:250 (Student Support Services, 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 8:100, (Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies)

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