

DISTRICT 96 FOOD ALLERGY GUIDELINES
Responsibilities of Classroom Teachers, Aides, “Specials” and Network Teachers

The teacher will help in creating a safe classroom environment by:

1. Becoming familiar with symptoms of allergic reactions. (See Emergency Action Plan form). **Never question or hesitate to initiate Emergency Action Plan if student complains of symptoms of an allergic reaction. Never send a student suspected of having a reaction to the nurse alone.**
2. Keeping the Emergency Action Plan (EAP), and any medications, in a secure, accessible location within the classroom.
3. Sharing a copy of the EAP with the teachers of “Specials” and “Resource” classes as to the symptoms of an allergic reaction, treatment and avoidance strategies, i.e., music mouthpieces, art supplies composition, etc.
4. Sending Principal’s letter home to classmates’ parents notifying them of the presence of a student with a food allergy and offering suggestions as to class treats (see Letter to Parents of Class with Food Allergies), if indicated in Individual Health Plan (IHP) or 504 Plan.
5. Encouraging parents of food allergic student to send in a box of “safe” treats for unplanned special events along with a list of foods/ingredients to be avoided.
6. Promoting understanding of food allergies with non-allergic classmates. (See District 96 Food Allergy Education Resource List).
7. Avoiding cross contamination and promoting good hygiene by encouraging students to wash hands, or use wipes, upon arrival to school as well as before and after lunch or snacks.
8. Guarding against an uninformed adult giving a food allergic student an unsafe food.
9. Discouraging students from trading or sharing foods.
10. Encourage the use of non-food reinforcers.
11. Avoiding class projects or cooking projects involving allergenic foods that could cause reactions. Plan ahead to check for ingredients and make substitutions as needed.
12. Making all room parents and lunchroom supervisors aware of students with allergies. Teacher should coordinate with room parents in advance as to any party treats that will be provided or sent home. Encourage party treats to be store bought so as to have a list of ingredients that can be checked in advance.
13. Monitoring peer interactions for any teasing or bullying regarding foods, and take appropriate action.
14. Ensuring substitute folder contains a copy of the EAP of allergic students, along with specific procedures for managing classroom foods and procedures. The substitute should be encouraged to check with the nurse regarding unfamiliar symptoms or information.