

Students

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES AND GLYCOGEN STORAGE DISEASE MANAGEMENT

5141.25AR

Per Policy 5141.25, Section V, a district-wide, multi-disciplinary team convened in May of 2015 to review and clarify sections of this policy and in the spring of 2017 to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of this Policy and write revisions as necessary. These regulations are the direct result of recommendations from this Team, which consisted of district and school administrators, teachers, parents and students (some of whom have life-threatening allergies referenced in the policy).

As of the spring of 2017, no cleaning wipe has been identified and approved by the Town of Fairfield Health Department, that is: 1) proven effective at removing peanut/tree nut allergens, and 2) safe for student use on a daily basis for 182 school days. After a substantial amount of research by the Town of Fairfield Health Department, in consultation with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, we have found that wipes effective at removing allergens contain harmful ingredients such as alcohol. Until such time when a wipe that meets both of these criteria can be identified and endorsed by the Town of Fairfield Health Department, wipes are not recommended by this committee to be used in place of hand washing with soap and water.

The goal of this policy is to educate staff, students, and parents about the dangers of food allergens and to support tolerance for individual differences. In August or September of each school year, all staff and students shall be trained with age appropriate information for students about food allergies, how to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction and the importance of adhering to the District's policy on food and snacks in schools. The training shall also include information to develop empathy, understanding, and tolerance for individuals with life-threatening allergies. Delivery of this training will be coordinated by the school nurse and building principal. In addition, each year the District will offer training in the administration of medications by non-nursing personnel. Each school will develop a way of training substitute teachers and student teachers about this policy.

In all schools across the district, all classrooms are considered to be peanut and tree nut free. This means that students bringing snacks to be eaten in the classroom must adhere to peanut and tree nut free snacks. Parents sending snacks from home must be informed of this policy and should read labels carefully to ensure foods to be consumed in the classroom are peanut and tree nut free. The district's food service provider will provide a link on their website to a list of foods that are peanut and tree nut free, as well as indicating other foods free of other food allergens. Should any staff member choose to provide food in the classroom during school hours, those

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food items must be provided by the District’s food service provider to ensure the absence of peanuts and tree nuts and to be consistent with the contract between FPS and the food service provider. Under no circumstances should in-class school celebrations include food sent from home.

All schools must designate and enforce food free zones, including the Library, Computer Lab, Music Room, Art, Room, Science Room, Gym, Stage, and Auditorium. For any organization using the school facilities, including the PTA, no food is allowed in the classrooms. Any event sponsored by an outside organization or by the PTA in which food is to be served must be held in the school cafeteria or outdoors. In addition, staff must not use or allow the use of peanuts or tree nuts in the classroom for any purpose, including but not limited to classroom projects, art or science projects or experiments, or for extra-curricular activities.

At all times when students are allowed to consume food in the classroom, students should be required to remain seated while eating, keep hands to themselves, and never share food with another student; and, where practical, students may wash hands with soap and water after eating. In addition, after eating in the classroom, all desks must be cleaned with a “green” cleaning solution.

At the elementary level, if a student brings an obviously non-compliant snack to the classroom, then the teacher must ensure that the student is eating in a space removed from other students, and use the incident as a “teachable moment” with the student. Under no circumstance should food be taken from a student. The teacher will contact the parent about the non-compliant snack. After repeated contact by the teacher to the parent, the school’s principal will send a letter to the parent and/or meet with the parent at school.

At the secondary level, students may be in possession of food containing peanuts or tree nuts, kept in a backpack or similar item, provided that such food is not consumed in the classroom or spaces designated as food-free by this Policy. In the secondary classroom, the teacher is the first line of compliance. If a student is not compliant after a warning from a teacher, then the student is referred to the dean or administration for discipline consistent with the school’s Code of Conduct. Such student would be required to wash hands and use the “green cleaner” for the desk. Repeat offenders will be subject to further discipline and parents will be informed if the non-compliance reaches the level where school discipline is required.

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The high school Family and Consumer Science program is excepted from the peanut/tree nut prohibition, because 1) such ingredients are integral to the departmental curriculum as approved by the Fairfield Board of Education and 2) staff have successfully undertaken extra precautions to ensure that students with life-threatening allergies successfully access these courses.

Teachers will be encouraged to eat in the cafeteria or faculty-only space. “Green” cleaning solution will be available in these areas.

8/27/2004
Revised 10/16/2012
Revised 8/21/2015
Revised 6/15/2017