

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2015
Education Center
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room
4:15 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of January 5, 2015, Minutes
- III. Policy
 - Policy #5516 Students – Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy
- IV. Open Discussion/Public Comment
- V. Adjournment
- VI. Future Items:
 - Policy #5314 Students – Smoking
 - Policy ##3270.2 Business - Grants
 - Policy #5225 Students – Requirements for Graduation
 - Policy #4240 Personnel – Electronic Mail
 - New policy request for Monthly Financial Reporting to BOE

Future Mtg. Dates and Times: **Monday, March 2**, March 30, April 27, May 11, June 1, June 15, August 31, September 21, September 28, October 12, November 9, November 30, 2015.

All meetings will be held at 501 Kings Highway East, Superintendent's Conference Room unless otherwise noted.

DRAFT Minutes

BOE Policy Subcommittee

January 5, 2015

Submitted for consideration by Andrea Leonardi

Meeting was called to order at 3:56 PM

Committee members present: Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, John Convertito, Donna Karnal

Central Office members present: Andrea Leonardi

Committee chair inquired of all members as to their understanding/perception of the BOE's request of the committee. Committee members were in agreement that they felt the BOE was asking them for further review of the provisions of the Food Allergy Policy, particularly the provisions regarding prevention. John Convertito commented that the policy was perhaps too directive and that a simple policy statement may be the best course of action to allow the proposed "multidisciplinary team" to grapple with operationalizing the policy. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly commented that further direction to staff, administration and parents was required to gain consistent implementation across the district. Ms. Leonardi suggested that perhaps a way to move forward included striking the section in dispute (paragraph 2, page 6) and sending the policy to the BOE to allow the bulk of the policy to be implemented and allowing the multidisciplinary team to begin its work, knowing that the prevention section needed further study and more consultation with experts in the field (both medical and legal). Public comment was heard. T. Donovan submitted a letter to the committee for review. Meeting adjourned.

Students

Welfare

MANAGEMENT OF FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS **5516**

~~The Fairfield Board of Education recognizes the increasing prevalence of potentially life-threatening food allergies among children. Effective management of food allergies in the school setting includes implementing strategies for avoidance of offending foods by allergic children and emergency planning to ensure prompt identification and treatment of allergic reactions that may occur. The Board supports the education of school personnel, students, and parents or guardians regarding food allergy management to maintain a safe school environment for allergic children.~~

~~Approved 8/27/04~~

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

The Fairfield Public Schools recognize that allergies may be life threatening. For this reason, the District is committed to developing strategies and practices to minimize the risk of accidental exposure to life threatening allergens and to assist in the management of glycogen storage disease and to ensure prompt and effective medical response should a child suffer an allergic reaction while at school. The district further recognizes the importance of collaborating with parents and appropriate medical staff in developing such practices and encourages strategies to enable the student to become increasingly proactive in the care and management of his/her life threatening allergy(ies), or glycogen storage disease as developmentally appropriate. There is currently no cure for life-threatening allergies; there is only medication available for emergency response. The only way to prevent the symptoms of an allergic response is to prevent exposure to allergens, which will require understanding and effort on the part of the entire school community.

Best practice asks us to reduce students' exposure to known allergens in the learning environment, reinforcing a safe and inclusive environment for all students. When a student with life-threatening allergies is present in a school environment, cooperation and compliance is necessary at all levels: District, School, Classroom, Home. Each level has its role and responsibilities:

District:

- Shall clearly communicate district policy to all school leaders and parents and provide for training on food allergy awareness and the administration of medication to all applicable personnel.
- Shall monitor and evaluate all schools for compliance with district policy and follow up with all individuals for instances of policy violations.

School:

- Each school shall clearly communicate the needs of students with life-threatening food allergies to their school community through letters to classroom communities and their families and of district and school expectations of compliance.
- Schools leaders shall inform PTA leaders of the need for safety and inclusion in all school sponsored events.

Classroom:

- Peers shall be educated as to the individualized safety and inclusion needs of fellow students.
- Expectations of compliance shall be clearly communicated to students and their families.

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy (continued)

Home:

- Families shall be educated on food allergy awareness and how to comply with safety requests for students with life-threatening allergies.
- Families shall make every effort possible to ensure the safety of students with life-threatening food allergies when sending a snack into the learning environment.
- Students with life-threatening food allergies should know to never accept food from others and how to communicate their needs to peers.
- Parents of students with life-threatening allergies shall help their student access developmentally appropriate self-advocacy skills. Parents may choose to collaborate with schools on these skills.

To this end, the Fairfield Public Schools adopt the following protocols related to the management of life threatening allergies for students enrolled in district schools.

I. Identifying Students with Life Threatening Allergies

- A. Early identification of students with life-threatening allergies is vital to the effective implementation of this policy. The district therefore requests parents/guardians of children with life-threatening allergy(ies) to promptly notify the school in writing of the allergy(ies).
- B. Upon receipt of parent written notification that their child has been diagnosed with food allergy(ies) and/or other life threatening allergy(ies), the school shall request the parent/guardian to provide the following:
 1. Written authorization to obtain detailed written medical information on the child's condition from the physician;
 2. Written consent to administer or self-administer medications during the school day, as applicable in accordance with the District's Administration of Medication Policy;
 3. An Emergency Care Plan and Treatment Authorization ("Emergency Care Plan") completed and signed by their child's licensed health care provider and signed by the parent;
 4. Any medications necessary to prevent or treat allergic reactions along with relevant prescription and dosage information. Replace medications after use or expiration;
 5. A description of the student's past allergic reactions, including triggers and warning signs;
 6. Current emergency contact information and prompt notice of any updates;
 7. A description of the student's emotional response to the condition and the need for intervention; and
 8. Recommendations on age-appropriate ways to include the student in planning or care.

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

I. Identifying Students with Life-Threatening Allergies (continued)

- C. **Suspected Allergies:** In the event the School Nurse suspects that a student has a food allergy or other life threatening allergy(ies) the school shall provide the parent/guardian written notification and request for the student to be evaluated by a physician.
- D. **Non-Cooperation:** If the parent/guardian of a student with known or suspected food allergy(ies) or other life threatening allergy(ies) fails or refuses to cooperate with the school for an evaluation or implementation of an appropriate Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and Emergency Care Plan (ECP), the school shall implement an Emergency Care Plan stating to call 911 immediately upon recognition of symptoms along with sending written notification to the parent/guardian of the student's ECP.

II. Individualized Health Care Plans and Emergency Care Plans

- A. If the District is notified pursuant to Section I of this policy that child has life-threatening allergy(ies), the district shall develop an individualized health care plan (IHCP) for the child.
- B. The IHCP shall be developed by the parents/guardians, school nurse, and appropriate school personnel. Such personnel may include, but are not limited to, school or food service administrator(s); classroom teacher(s); and the student, if appropriate. The school may also consult with the town medical advisor, as needed.
- C. IHCPs are developed for students with special health needs or whose health needs require daily interventions. The IHCP describes how to meet the child's health and safety needs within the school environment and should address the student's needs across school settings. Information to be contained in an IHCP should include a description of the functional health issues (diagnoses); student objectives for promoting self-care and age appropriate independence; and the responsibilities of parents, school nurse and other school personnel. The IHCP may also include strategies to minimize the student's risk for exposure, such as considerations regarding:
 - 1. Classroom environment, including allergy free considerations;
 - 2. Cafeteria safety;
 - 3. Participation in school nutrition programs;
 - 4. Snacks, birthdays and other celebrations;
 - 5. Alternatives to food rewards or incentives;
 - 6. Hand-washing;
 - 7. Location of emergency medication;
 - 8. Risk management during lunch and recess times;
 - 9. Special events;
 - 10. Field trips;

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

II. Individualized Health Care Plans and Emergency Care Plans (continued)

11. Extracurricular activities;
12. School transportation;
13. Staff notification; and
14. Transitions to new classrooms, grades and/or buildings.

- D. As part of the IHCP, the district shall also develop an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) for each child identified as having a life threatening food allergy. The ECP describes the specific directions about what to do in a medical emergency. The ECP should include the following information, as appropriate:
1. The child's name and other identifying information, such as date of birth, grade and photo;
 2. The child's specific allergy(ies);
 3. The child's signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction;
 4. The medication, if any, or other treatment to be administered in the event of exposure;
 5. The location and storage of the medication;
 6. Who will administer the medication (including self-administration options, as appropriate);
 7. Other emergency procedures, such as calling 911, contacting the school nurse, and/or calling the parents or physician;
 8. Recommendations for what to do if the child continues to experience symptoms after the administration of medication; and
 9. Emergency contact information for the parents/family and medical provider.
- E. The IHCP shall be reviewed annually, or upon receipt of new medical information, and/or in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in school.
- F. An individualized health care plan and glycogen storage disease action plan shall also be developed for any student with glycogen storage disease. Such plan shall include, but is not limited to, the provision of food or dietary supplements by the school nurse or by an employee approved by the school nurse to a student with glycogen storage disease. Such plan may not prohibit a parent/guardian or a person they so designate, from providing food or dietary supplements to the affected student on school grounds during the school day.

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

II. Individualized Health Care Plans and Emergency Care Plans (continued)

- G. The IHCP and ECP shall be disseminated to all school staff who supervise the student during the school day and at school sponsored activities or are responsible for the provision of food to the student. Plan distribution includes, but is not limited to, the students' teachers, classroom assistants, food service staff, coaches, transportation staff, school health professionals, school case managers, custodial staff, student aides and the parents/guardians of the student.

III. Referral to Section 504 and IDEA

In addition to having an IHCP, a student with a life-threatening allergy or glycogen storage disease (GSD) may also be eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act if the student has a disability that substantially limits a major life activity or under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) if the student has a qualifying disability that adversely impacts the student's education and causes the student to need specialized instruction. The team responsible for the IHCP shall refer the student under Section 504 or the IDEA as appropriate. Eligibility under either Section 504 or IDEA must be considered on a case-by-case basis given each student's unique situation.

IV. Training/Education

- A. All school personnel will be educated on how to recognize symptoms of allergic reactions, preventative strategies to minimize a child's risk of exposure to life-threatening allergies, and what to do in the event of an emergency. Staff education will be coordinated by the principal and school nurse, utilizing a consistent District training module supported by the town Director of Health. Any such training regarding the administration of medication shall be done in accordance with District Policy and State Law.
- B. The District shall offer training consistent with District Policy # 5515 Protocol for Administration of Emergency Medications by Non-nursing Personnel.
- C. The District shall provide each school with consistent and age-appropriate information for students about food allergies, how to recognize symptoms of an allergic reaction and the importance of adhering to the school's policies regarding food and snacks, as well as the development of empathy, understanding, and tolerance for individuals with life threatening allergies and glycogen storage disease. The principal shall coordinate the delivery of this educational information with building staff.

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

V. Prevention

- A. A District-wide, multi-disciplinary team will develop a Pre K-12 Management Plan ~~plan~~ for the management of life-threatening allergies, including food allergies, aligned to the CSDE Guidelines for Managing Life-threatening Food Allergies ~~in Connecticut Schools,~~ and Glycogen Storage Disease.
- B. The District-wide, multi-disciplinary team will annually review the ~~District's allergy and glycogen storage disease management plan~~ Management Plan and Guidelines.
- C. Food in Elementary Schools
 - ~~1. The only food allowed in Elementary School classrooms will be snacks from the approved Safe School Snack List.~~
 - ~~a. Annually, at the start of the school year, the District Committee will publish an approved Safe School Snack List.~~
 - ~~b. Non-compliant students will be offered an alternative approved snack by the teacher.~~
 1. Peanut and tree nuts typically cause the most severe allergic reactions in elementary classrooms. Snacks sent from home for consumption in the classroom must be mindful of this heightened risk and must not contain peanuts and/or tree nuts. The District will make best efforts to recognize peanut and tree nut products that are in violation of this policy.
 - ~~2. All schools will designate food free zones, including the Library, Computer Lab, Music Room, Art Room, and Science Room.~~
 2. The District is committed to providing an elementary school classroom environment free of tree nuts and peanuts. Parents are advised that while the District is committed to ensuring that the elementary classrooms are free of tree nuts and peanuts, due to the choices made by individual parents, the District cannot guarantee that every elementary school classroom will be completely free of tree nuts and peanuts at all times. In order to ensure all elementary classrooms are free of tree nuts and peanuts, the District shall remove any and all items containing these allergens from its vending machines and shall insure that ingredients containing these allergens are excluded from school provided snacks. ~~Notwithstanding the above, it shall **not** be the responsibility of the faculty or staff of any elementary school to read student provided food labels or to ascertain whether or not student provided food items contain tree nuts and peanuts. It is the obligation of each parent to determine the content of the food items they provide to their child.~~ Faculty and staff shall use their best efforts to ensure that no food items containing tree nuts and peanuts are present in elementary classrooms. The District, in partnership with school staff, shall counsel all parents against providing children with food items containing tree nuts and peanuts to consume as classroom snacks; all parents share in the responsibility of keeping children safe in the classroom by complying with this policy.

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

W. Prevention (continued)

- ~~3. All classrooms will provide protein soluble hand wipes for mandated use for students to use after snack if hand washing is not available.~~
3. The multi-disciplinary team will develop:
 - a. A voluntary, suggested snack list for parents who would like guidance on identifying nut-free snacks for their children
 - b. An intervention plan for students who bring nut-containing snacks to the Classroom
- ~~4. All kindergarten classes will have their snacks in the cafeteria.~~
4. All in school celebrations shall be food free.
5. All elementary schools will designate food free zones, including the Library, Computer Lab, Music Room, Art Room, Gym, Stage, and Science Room.
6. All elementary classrooms will provide protein soluble hand wipes for mandated use for students to use after snack if hand washing is not available. Students will be required to remain at their desks while eating snacks to contain the spread of allergens.
7. All desks will be cleaned with soap and water, protein soluble wipes, or other approved cleaning agents after snacks are eaten in the classroom.
8. All cafeteria tables will be cleaned with soap and water or other approved cleaning agents after each use.
9. Community/PTA use of elementary school facilities:
 - a. No food is allowed in any classroom;
 - b. Any event in which food will be served or consumed must be held in the school cafeteria or outdoors;
 - c. Outside organizations are encouraged to serve only nut-free food items and consult the suggested food list referenced on the District's website ~~SnackSafely.com website~~ when selecting food to be served in the cafeteria or outdoors.

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

VI. Communication (continued)

- A. The school nurse shall be responsible for coordinating the communication among parents, a student's individual health care provider and the school regarding a student's life threatening allergic condition. School staff responsible for implementing a student's IHCP will be notified of their responsibilities and provided with appropriate information as to how to minimize risk of exposure and how to respond in the event of an emergency. 7
- B. The school administrative staff and school nurse shall communicate annually to all school personnel the availability of training regarding Policy #5515, Protocol for the Administration of Emergency Medications by Non-nursing Personnel.
- C. Each school will ensure that there are appropriate communication systems available within each school (i.e. telephones, cell phones, walkie-talkies) and for off-site activities (i.e. field trips) to ensure that school personnel are able to effectively respond in case of emergency.
- D. The District shall develop standardized letters to be sent home to parents, ~~whenever appropriate, to alert them to food restrictions within their child's classroom or school.~~ introducing, explaining and enforcing the District's food allergy policy and protocols.
- E. Beginning with the school year 2015-2016, the District shall annually, not later than October 1, provide notice to parents of the Plan for the Management of Severe and Life-Threatening Allergies, Including Food Allergies, and
1. Make the plan available on the District's Website and/or the websites of each school under the District's jurisdiction;
 2. Provide notice of such plan in conjunction with the annual written statement provided to parents and guardians as required by subsection (b) of section 10-231c of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- F. The District shall annually update its ~~approved website for identifying Safe School Snacks.~~ resources for voluntary, suggested snack alternatives for families.
- G. All communication, written or verbal, shall be compliant with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

VII. Monitoring the District's Plan and Procedures

The District shall conduct periodic assessments of its Food Allergy Management Plan and Procedures. Such assessments shall occur at least annually and after each emergency event involving the administration of medication to determine the effectiveness of the process, why the incident occurred, what worked and what did not work.

Students

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Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management Policy

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records.
- 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.
- 10-207 Duties of medical advisors.
- 10-212a Administrations of medications in schools
- 10-212c Life threatening food allergies; Guidelines; district plans
- 10-212a(d) Administration of medications in schools by a paraprofessional.
- 10-212c Life threatening food allergies; Guidelines; district plans, as amended by P.A. 12-198)
- 10-220i Transportation of students carrying cartridge injectors
- 10-231c Pesticide application at schools
- 19a-900 Use of cartridge injectors by staff members of before or after school programs, day camp or day care facility.
- 52-557b Good Samaritan Law. Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection
- The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies section 10-212a through 10-212a-7, Administration of Medication by School Personnel.
- [Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools](#), Connecticut State Department of Education (2006)

Federal Legislation

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794 § 504; 34 C.F.R. § 104 et seq.)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.; 29C.F.R. §1630 et seq.
- The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- Land v. Baptist Medical Center*, 164F3d423 (8th Cir. 1999)
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1976 (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.); 34 C.F.R. § 300 et seq.
- FCS Instruction783-2, Revision 2, Meal substitution for medical or other special dietary reasons.
- P.A. 09-155 An Act Concerning the Use of Asthmatic Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors While at School.