



Judith Flagg, R.N., B.S.N., TZHS, 845-680-1647  
Maggie Keane, R.N., B.S.N., SOMS, 845-680-1130  
Karen Fitzgibbons, R.N., CL, 845-680-1508  
Riva Fisher, R.N., TZE, 845-680-1404

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to food allergens can be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, physicians and school staff to minimize the risks and provide a safe educational environment for food allergic and anaphylactic prone children.

The food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network states: "Most individuals who have had a reaction ate a food they thought was safe. Strict avoidance of the allergy causing food is the only way to prevent a reaction." This philosophy of avoiding the allergen is the basis for the food allergy guidelines the District has in place. The school nurses are committed to working with you, your child, the food service personnel and your child's teacher to help ensure that your child is in a safe and caring environment.

If your child has had an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to food or other allergens, we strongly recommend communication with the school nurse and classroom teacher to discuss your child's previous reactions and strategies for keeping your child safe at school. However, accidental exposure to allergens can and have occurred in school settings. In this case, timely and appropriate treatment is critical. Therefore, we must have a Food Allergy Action Plan and Family Food Allergy Health History form on file which describes your child's food allergies, symptoms and physician-ordered treatment plans. Please complete the enclosed forms, have your physician review and sign the forms and bring these forms and all necessary medications, in their original packaging to the school nurse on or before the first day of school. Also, please include a small photo of your child.

It is very important that we have your child's health forms and medications at school so that we are able to effectively manage your child's food allergies. Until these forms and the appropriate medications are returned to school, all food must come from home. In addition, the Food Service department will be glad to help you with any questions you may have regarding food ingredients on our menu. You may contact them by phone at (845-680-1118).

Throughout the school year, even when the food allergy action plan is in place, your child should bring all snacks and treats for parties from home. Teachers are not permitted to provide snacks for students. You can send in a supply of non-perishable snack items to be kept for your child either in the classroom or the Health office so that when there is a party, your child can be included. You can discuss this option with your child's teacher. The district cannot take responsibility for ingredients in snacks not provided by the school cafeteria.

Our goal is to work cooperatively with you to keep your child safe at school. Please don't hesitate to call the nurse, see above for number. Thank you for your prompt response to this matter.

Sincerely,

SOCSD School Nurses