



## Food Safety Protocol

The Parkway School District has adopted a new district-wide protocol to help protect the health and safety of our students with life-threatening food allergies and to contribute to the health and academic achievement of all students. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, all schools will address these best practice guidelines.

- **Classrooms should be food-free whenever possible.** Consumption of food in the classroom is strongly discouraged due to allergy and sanitation concerns.
  - An exception could be a child on an individual medical health plan, such as diabetes.
  - In situations where it is deemed necessary for students to have a snack between meals during the school day, students may bring a healthy snack for their own consumption. Parents may be advised not to send in snacks with a particular allergen, if needed, to prevent cross-contamination which could impact safety for food allergic students.
  - Schools may alternatively choose to order healthy snacks for classrooms or to support hungry students from Parkway Food and Nutrition. Any snacks provided for class-wide or individual consumption must be selected with extreme care.
  - Careful cleaning of surfaces with soap and water after consumption of food is essential.
- **No food will be brought from home for sharing class-wide.**
- **Avoid use of food in the curriculum.** Skin contact and ingestion of food allergens used in classroom projects are frequent causes of allergic reactions. Avoid the use of foods in art, crafts, science and other classroom projects. Even used food containers (such as egg cartons) may pose a risk that is easily avoided. If food use is essential in the curriculum, teachers will alert and students, parents and school nurses through the syllabus, letters and emails home, and class announcements. In addition, the school nurse will be consulted to identify students with known food allergies. Teachers will make alternative curricular plans if students with known food allergies could be adversely impacted.
- **Find safe and inclusive ways to celebrate without food.** Celebrations with food are to be limited and discouraged. *Birthdays celebrations at school will not include food. Holiday celebrations at school will not include food.* Schools are encouraged to be creative in celebrating without food. See attachment A for nonfood celebration ideas.
- **Avoid using food as a reward or motivator.** A classroom movie, extra recess, a fun guest speaker or field trip can motivate students without endangering or excluding those with food allergies.

- **Field trips should follow the same protocols for food safety.** If food consumption will happen on a field trip, parents and school nurse must have advance notice. Recommended protocol would be to have students bring a sack lunch from home or order a sack lunch from Food and Nutrition Services. No food or treats should be shared class-wide sharing on field trips without advance notice
- **Clubs, Athletics and After School Activities will use food carefully.** All extra-curricular activities will take precautions to protect students with food allergies. Contents of all foods shared in these activities should be clearly labeled and no food prepared at home will be shared. Activity sponsors and coaches should be aware of students with known allergies and be familiar with each student's allergy action plan and emergency medication. Avoid serving foods with known allergens and notify parents and students when participating in a service activity where students may come in contact with food.

This protocol does not preclude giving assistance to students who are hungry. If a staff member suspects that a student does not have access to adequate nutritious meals, the counselor or administrator will be notified. Schools will work with students to find solutions to the problem. Snacks provided to hungry students should be clearly labeled and not contain common allergens such as peanuts and tree nuts. Staff should inquire about food allergies prior to giving any food to students.

## Attachment A

### Birthday Celebrations without Food

How one classroom teacher decided to celebrate birthdays:

<http://fairydustteaching.com/2013/01/reggio-emilia-birthdays/>

Students bring “me bag” to share on their birthdays:

<http://www.teachingace.com/birthday-celebrations-without-food/>

### Non-food Celebration Ideas

#### Zero-cost Alternatives:

- Sit by friends
- Read outdoors
- Teach the class
- Enjoy class outdoors
- Have an extra recess\*
- Read to a younger class
- Make deliveries to the office
- Listen to music while working
- Play a favorite game or puzzle
- Walk with a teacher during lunch\*
- Eat lunch with a teacher or principal
- Dance to favorite music in the classroom\*
- Get “free choice” time at the end of the day
- Listen with a headset to a book on audiotape
- Have a teacher perform special skills (i.e., sing)
- Have a teacher read a special book to the class

#### Low-cost Alternatives:

- Select a paperback book
- Enter a drawing for donated prizes
- Get stickers, pencils, and other school supplies
- Receive a video store/movie theatre coupon
- Receive a “mystery pack” (notepad, sports cards)

## Attachment B

### Non-food Fundraising Ideas

- Candles
  - Book sale
  - Cookbook
  - Walkathon\*
  - Student artwork
  - Stuffed animals
  - Stadium pillows
  - School photo ID
  - Educational games
  - Shopping donation programs
  - School mascot temporary tattoos
  - Faculty and/or student talent show\*
  - Teacher/student sports competition
  - Auction of donated goods and services
- 
- Non-Latex balloon bouquets for special occasions
  - Bottled water with the schools own label
  - Refillable water bottle with the school's logo
  - Glow in the dark novelties
  - Greeting cards especially designed by students
  - School calendars important school dates listed
  - Party bags for kids' birthday parties filled with non-food novelties
  - Sale of flowers and balloons for the families to purchase to acknowledge event or achievement
  - School spirit items – tee-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, lanyards, pennants, bracelets and caps
  - Growing and/or selling flowers and plants for holidays such as Valentine's Day

*\*These activities have the added benefit of promoting physical activity for students.*

*Revised 3-31-17*