



Book	Board Policy and Guidelines
Section	Section J
Title	Student Allergy Prevention and Response
Number	JLCFA.BP
Status	Active
Adopted	June 15, 2011

**JLCFA.BP**

### **STUDENT ALLERGY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

Food allergy is a growing concern in the United States and creates a significant challenge for children in school. Increasing numbers of children are diagnosed with life-threatening food allergies (6 to 8 percent) that may result in a potentially life-threatening condition (anaphylaxis). Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency requiring immediate medical treatment. Deaths have occurred because of delays in recognizing and responding to symptoms with immediate treatment and further medical interventions.

Schools have a responsibility to students with life-threatening health conditions, including allergies and anaphylaxis under state law and to students with disabilities under federal law. Parkway School District is committed to create an organized system for preventing and responding to allergic reactions. This policy is not a guarantee of an allergen-free environment; instead, it is designed to increase awareness, provide education and training, reduce the chance of exposure and outline responses to allergic reactions.

Research shows that allergies can negatively impact student achievement by affecting concentration, auditory processing and attendance. In addition, healthy students are better learners.

This policy applies to district facilities to which students have access and includes transportation provided by the district. The Board instructs the superintendent or designee to develop guidelines to implement this policy.

While there is no universal, "one-size-fits-all" food allergy policy or set of guidelines, Parkway has developed a comprehensive yet flexible policy with guidelines that address allergens, varying ages and maturity levels of students, and the physical properties and organizational structures of our schools. The key components of our food allergy policy are

**Medical management** The school will have an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHP) and an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) for every student with a life-threatening food allergy. Each plan written will specifically address:

- Methods and plans in an attempt to prevent an exposure
- Emergency response in the event of an exposure

**Risk reduction** Guidelines will be in place to protect food-allergic children from potential exposure to allergens during the school day, or any time the student is in the custody of the school, such as a field trip or before/after-school sports programs or activities. Education and training of staff and students (age-appropriate) will consist of:

- Causes, signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and the response to a reaction

**Communication and implementation** The roles of parents, staff, and students in preventing a possible exposure to allergens will be clearly defined, as well as actions taken in the event of an exposure and the emergency actions required. Communication and implementation in the district regarding food allergies will include:

Identification of students with food allergy

Information shared on a need-to-know basis, to maintain confidentiality

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POLICY ADOPTED: June 15, 2011

SUPERSEDES:

LEGAL REFERENCE:

CROSS REFERENCE: Food Allergy Management and Education (FAME), St. Louis Children's Hospital 2011  
Guidelines for Allergy Prevention and Response. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services,

August 2010 <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/allergypreventionindex.html>

National Association of School Nurses: <http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=198>