

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs (Food Allergy Management)

The purpose of this policy is to establish a safe environment for students with food allergies and glycogen storage disease and to support parents regarding food allergy management. In accordance with applicable law, it is the policy of the Board of Education to provide all students, through necessary accommodations where required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

The Board recognizes the need to help the child with allergies avoid foods to which the child is allergic and to establish emergency procedures to treat allergic reactions that may occur. In some cases, a student's allergies may prevent him/her from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

Substitutions to the regular meal will be made for students who are unable to eat school meals due to allergic conditions, when that need is certified in writing by a physician. Meal service shall be provided in the most inclusive setting appropriate to the needs of the disabled student.

The nature of the student's allergic conditions, the reason the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meals, including foods to be omitted from the student's diet, indication of the major life activity affected by the condition, the specific diet prescription along with the substitution(s) needed will be specifically described in a statement signed by a licensed physician. The district, in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Division guidelines, will provide substitute meals to students with food allergies based upon the physician's signed statement.

District Food Allergy Management Plan

The focus of a Districtwide Food Allergy Management Plan shall be prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response. The management plan shall strike a balance between the health, social normalcy and safety needs of the individual student with life threatening food allergies and the education, health and safety needs of all students. The District Food Allergy Management Plan shall be the basis for the development of the procedural guidelines that will be implemented at the school level and provide for consistency across all schools within the district.

The goals for the Districtwide Plan include:

1. To maintain the health and protect the safety of children who have life-threatening food allergies in ways that are developmentally appropriate, promote self-advocacy and competence in self-care and provide appropriate educational opportunities.
2. To ensure that interventions and individual health care plans for students with life-threatening food allergies are based on medically accurate information and evidence-based practices.

3. To define a formal process for identifying, managing, and ensuring continuity of care for students with life-threatening food allergies across all transitions. (Pre-K-Grade 12)

Individualized Health Care Plan

An Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) shall be developed and implemented for students that are identified with food allergies, glycogen storage disease, and other limiting dietary conditions with food allergies. In addition, the Board recognizes that students with documented life-threatening food allergies may be identified as disabled and eligible for coverage under The Disabilities Act and Public Law 93-112 and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A clearly-defined “504 Accommodation Plan” shall be developed and implemented for all such identified students if it has been properly demonstrated that the child’s impairment is such that it substantially limits one or more major life activities, (i.e., the disability must significantly affect a major life function) and necessary accommodations must be made to ensure full participation of identified students in student activities. Such plan shall be signed by the appropriate staff, the parent/guardian of the student and the student’s physician.

All schools are also responsible for developing and implementing guidelines for the care of food-allergic students and glycogen storage disease. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, staff development, strategies for identifying students at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions, means to manage the student’s allergy including avoidance measures, designation of typical symptoms and dosing instructions for medications.

The District’s plan for managing students with life-threatening food allergies shall be posted on the District’s website (and/or on the website of each school within the District).

(cf. 5141 - Student Health Services)
(cf. 5141.21 - Administering Medication)
(cf. 5141.23 - Students with Special Health Care Needs)
(cf. 5141.3 - Health Assessments)
(cf. 5145.4 - Nondiscrimination)

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, as amended by P.A. 12-198)
10-212a(d) Administration of medications in schools by a paraprofessional.
10-220i Transportation of students carrying cartridge injectors

Adopted: December 10, 2009
Revised: January 12, 2021
Revised: October 14, 2025

NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
North Canaan, Connecticut