

FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

The Weston Public Schools (WPS) recognize the increasing prevalence of food allergies and the life-threatening nature of allergies for many students. As a result, the Administration of the WPS has developed a policy to: minimize the risk of exposure that allergens pose as a threat to students; educate all members of the school community about the risks associated with food allergies; and plan for the individual needs of students (and employees) with life-threatening food allergies. Further, these policies, protocols, and procedures will aim to: (1) assist students to assume more individual responsibility for their health and safety, as they grow older; and (2) optimize full participation in educational programs and school sponsored activities.

Protocols and procedures for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies (LTFA) in the WPS will be published, reviewed periodically and modified as appropriate, and will include the following:

- 1) Annual district- wide and building-based education and training provided to school personnel concerning the management of student allergies, recognition of signs of an allergic reaction, activation of the emergency response plan, and the administration of epinephrine via auto injector.
- 2) Development of an individualized health care plan (IHP) for each student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening food allergy with collaboration from parents, guardians and health care providers, will include accommodations for prevention, management and individual emergency response. The IHP will be coordinated by a school nurse and implemented by a school nurse or a designated staff member. In certain circumstances, a student's allergy may require application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- 3) Food as a reward or incentive during the school day is prohibited.
- 4) Curriculum activities, grade-wide events, or field trips involving food require a two-week prior notification, consultation with the nurse **and** written approval from the building principal or department head.
- 5) Unless otherwise required by law, WPS staff are not responsible for implementing the Food Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures during (1) school sponsored events beyond the school day that are open to the public (e.g. school athletic contests, plays, concerts or ceremonies) or (2) programs or events on WPS property that are sponsored by various parent, community, and private groups.

Please refer to the Food Allergy Guidelines for Elementary and Secondary levels for further guidance.

Adopted: June 18, 2012

Revised: June 5, 2017

LEGAL REF.: 105 CMR 210.000: The Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private School
Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71: Section 54B. Administration of medications in school settings; regulation
American with Disabilities Act and Section 504

REFS.: Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network <http://www.foodallergy.org>
Managing Life Threatening Allergies in Schools. Massachusetts
Department of Education and Massachusetts Department of Public
Health, May 2016