

# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

## REGULATIONS

Students with Food Allergies

CMS/NEPN Code:  
JLCG-R

Pursuant to the following guidelines and plans, the district will address the increasing frequency and intensity of allergic reactions to foods by certain students and the impact these reactions may have on all students in the educational environment.

### General Guidelines

1. By the winter of 2006, the district will develop educational information that is made available to CMS staff regarding the prevention and management of allergic reactions to food.
2. Information regarding the prevention and management of allergic reactions to food shall be made available to CMS students and their parents<sup>1</sup> through the Student Handbook and by other means, such as principal newsletters and PTSA communications.
3. Beginning with the 2006/07 school year, the district will make all reasonable efforts to no longer purchase or use products containing peanuts for the preparation of food in school cafeterias. Further, the district will make its best efforts to purchase only products prepared in peanut-free environments for use in preparing food in school cafeterias.
4. As soon as is reasonably possible, and in no case later than the beginning of the 2006/07 school year, principals will prohibit the sale of peanut products in vending machines in schools.

### Plans for Students with Life-Threatening Allergies to Foods

CMS recognizes that it is not possible for the district to totally eliminate the risk of exposure of students with life-threatening allergies (“identified students”) to foods that trigger allergic reactions. However, the district takes seriously its responsibility to take reasonable steps to protect the safety of its students. Therefore, in an effort to identify students with life-threatening allergies to foods, initiate safety precautions to avoid allergic reactions by these students and prepare school staffs to deal with such allergic reactions should they occur, CMS adopts the following guidelines:

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this regulation, references to “parent” or “parents” includes one or both parents, the legal guardian or legal custodian of a student, or a person acting *in loco parentis* to the student.

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**Page 1 of 3**

**Revised:**

**Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., 29 U.S.C. § 794(a); N.C.G.S. §§ 143-508(11) & -509 (9); 10A N.C.A.C. 13P .0509**

**Previous CMS Regulation #: none**

**Cross Reference: IHBA, JLCD, JLCE**

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1. Parents of a student with a life-threatening allergy to a food must provide the school principal with documentation from a licensed healthcare provider describing the specific allergic condition of the child.
2. After receiving the required documentation, the school shall work with the parents of the identified student to develop a healthcare plan to minimize the specific risks to the student. Schools should also work with the parents to develop an emergency healthcare plan for use in the event of an allergic reaction by the identified student. Staff who should work in partnership with the parent to develop this plan may include, but are not limited to, the principal, school nurse, the student's teacher, the After School Enrichment Site Coordinator, and the cafeteria manager.
3. The healthcare plan should address various ways to limit the identified student's exposure to food(s) containing the specific allergen. While not exhaustive, following are examples of provisions that may be considered for inclusion in a healthcare plan. (This list is intended to be illustrative; only the provisions that are appropriate should be included in the healthcare plan and other accommodations should be added, as necessary. Each healthcare plan must be tailored to the needs of the individual identified student.):
  - a. A special diet developed by Child Nutrition Services;
  - b. In elementary schools, the requirement that the identified student's teacher supervise all students in the class in washing their hands before and after eating;
  - c. The provision of information to the identified student's classmates and their parents regarding the dangers presented by the inclusion of foods containing the identified allergen in lunches brought to school;
  - d. The provision of separate art supplies for the identified student;
  - e. Designation of a specific computer keyboard and monitor that the identified student is to use only after it has been thoroughly cleaned;
  - f. Strict enforcement of CMS rules requiring that only commercially-prepared foods with complete ingredient labels are to be sent to school by parents for students to share during classroom events;
  - g. Restrictions on the kinds of tasks assigned to the identified student (such as cleaning off tables in the classroom or the cafeteria);

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**Page 2 of 3**

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- h. In elementary schools, storing the lunch boxes of classmates of the identified student's class outside of the classroom;
    - i. Distributing the identified student's photograph to school staff designated by the principal and explaining the allergic condition to them.
4. The development and implementation of such healthcare plans shall be carried out in a supportive manner that protects student confidentiality. Healthcare plans may be included in the provisions of a 504 Plan, but are not intended to discourage the development of 504 Plans in appropriate circumstances.
5. Schools at which there is an identified student(s) will provide a table in the cafeteria that is to be kept free of the types of allergen(s) that impact the identified student(s) (e.g. a "nut-free" table). While this table shall be available to the identified student(s), they shall not be required to eat only at this table.
6. Principals should make reasonable efforts to assure that all school staff who have substantial direct contact with an identified student are made aware of the student's emergency healthcare plan and are trained to recognize the symptoms of and respond to an allergic reaction.
7. Should an identified student be suspected of having an allergic reaction, all staff who have been trained to perform first aid or a life saving technique are authorized to provide treatment according to the student's emergency healthcare plan. Staff must also call 911 and contact the student's parent.

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**Page 3 of 3**

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