

Riesel ISD

Student Food Allergy Management Plan

Intent

Riesel ISD is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students. The Riesel ISD understands the increasing prevalence of life-threatening allergies among school populations. Riesel ISD recognizes that the risk of accidental exposure to allergens can be reduced in the school setting, and is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. In accordance with this and pursuant to Senate Bill 27 from the 82nd Legislative Session, the purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students with food allergies;
- Reduce the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions;
- Ensure a rapid and effective response in the case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction; and
- Protect the rights of food-allergic students to participate in all school activities.

Definition

A *food allergy* is a potentially serious immune-mediated response that develops after ingesting or coming into contact with specific foods or food additives. A life-threatening allergic reaction to food usually takes place within a few minutes to several hours after exposure to the allergen. Allergic reactions can occur with trace exposure to food allergens. There is no cure for food allergy. Strict avoidance of allergens along with early recognition and management of allergic reactions are important to the safety of food-allergic children at risk for anaphylaxis. *Anaphylaxis* is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and can potentially lead to death. Anaphylaxis includes a wide range of symptoms that can occur in many combinations and is highly unpredictable. In order to address the complexities of food allergy management in schools, it is important that students, parents/guardians, and school personnel work cooperatively to create a safe and supportive learning environment.

IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES

A. Request for Allergy Information: In order to effectively plan for and manage student allergy risks at school, parents/guardians are asked to promptly notify the school upon their child's diagnosis with, or suspicions of, a food allergy or other life-threatening allergy.

B. Parent Submissions: When a parent/guardian reports that their child has a diagnosed food allergy or other life threatening allergy, the school shall request the parent/guardian to provide the following:

- Written authorization to obtain detailed medical information on the child's condition from the physician;
- Written consent to share diagnosis and other information with school personnel;
- Written consent to administer or self-administer medications during the school day;
- An Emergency Action Plan completed and signed by both the child's licensed health care provider as well as the parent/guardian;
- Any medications necessary to prevent or treat allergic reactions along with relevant prescription and dosage information. A parent/guardian will be responsible for replacing medications after use or expiration;
- A detailed description of the student's past allergic reactions, including triggers and warning signs; and
- Current emergency contact information and prompt notice of any updates.

C. Suspected Allergies: In the event the School Nurse or other principal-designated school personnel suspect that a student has a food allergy or other life-threatening allergy, the school shall provide prompt notification to the parent/guardian and request for the student to be evaluated by a physician.

D. Non-Cooperation: If the parent/guardian of a student with a known or suspected food allergy or other life threatening allergy fails or refuses to cooperate with the Student Management Plan, the school shall implement a simple Emergency Care Plan stating to call 911 immediately upon recognition of symptoms.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In the event of an emergency, response measures outlined in a student's Emergency Care Plan will be taken. If epinephrine is injected in response to an allergic reaction, 911 will be called. In the event of an episode of anaphylaxis, the principal/school administrator or school nurse/nurse aide shall verbally notify the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible or delegate other school personnel to notify them. Following the episode, the school nurse shall complete a written report and file it in the student health record.

Individual Health Care, 504, and Emergency Care plans

In all schools in Riesel ISD, an Individual Health Care Plan and/or Emergency Care Plan shall be developed for each student identified with any food allergy with potentially serious health consequences. The Emergency Care Plan must be filled out completely and signed by both the parent/guardian and the child's physician, and in doing so will provide direct orders as well as consent for medical treatment. If applicable, the school nurse will develop the Individual Health Care Plan after receiving acceptable notification and in collaboration with the student's health care provider, the parent/guardian of the student, and the student (if age appropriate).

These plans should include both preventative measures to help avoid accidental exposure to allergens as well as emergency measures in case of exposure.

Depending on the nature and extent of the student's allergy, the measures listed in the IHP may include, but are not limited to:

- Posting additional signs (e.g. in classroom entryways);
- Designating special tables in the cafeteria;
- Creating a Food Allergy Management team (e.g. the nurse, principal, teacher, parent or bus driver);
- Prohibiting particular food items from certain classrooms and/or class parties;
- Educating school personnel, students, and families about food allergies; and/or
- Implementing particular protocols about cleaning surfaces touched by food products, washing of hands after eating, etc.

A 504 plan may be put in place if the 504 criteria is met and decided upon by the Section 504 Committee.

Transportation and Off-Site Activities

The nurse and/or supervisor may alert bus drivers of a student with a potentially life-threatening allergy; and if necessary, assigned seating may be required for students while riding the school bus. Drivers will not allow students to eat or drink on district transportation unless the student has written permission from his or her building principal. Written permission will be provided if the student has a medical need to consume food or beverages during the time the student is transported. A student who has a medical need to consume food or beverages on district transportation must have a 504 Plan or IHP that addresses which foods or beverages the student may consume if he or she is transported with any other student who has a life-threatening food allergy.

Students will be allowed to consume foods and beverages at district-approved activities and while being transported to and from activities on district transportation if the staff member serving as sponsor has verified that none of the students being transported have documented life-threatening food allergies. If there is a life threatening food allergy, that allergen may be restricted from activity. The bus driver will be notified of a life threatening food allergy by a sponsor.

Staff members must submit a list of students taking part in off-site activities, such as competitions and field trips, to the nurse at least five (5) days prior to the activity. For circumstances in which a five day notice is unavailable, notification is to be given as soon as possible. The nurse will verify which, if any,

students have allergies and provide the staff member with a copy of the relevant 504 Plans, IHPs or Emergency Care Plan as well as any medications that may be needed in the case of an allergic reaction. It is the parent's responsibility to *communicate directly with* and provide copies of the appropriate paperwork to the following personnel in charge of all before- and after-school activities:

- Before- or after-school activity instructors;
- Coaches;
- Overnight tournament sponsors or district chaperones;
- Clubs, programs, or sports sponsors; and/or
- Any other activity that a student that may be involved outside the school hours.

Self-Management

Each student at risk for anaphylaxis shall be allowed to carry an epinephrine auto-injector with him/her at all times, if appropriate. If this is not appropriate, the epinephrine auto-injector shall be kept in the nurse's office and/or other areas if specified by physician. A medically identified student may self-administer the epinephrine auto-injector, if appropriate. Refer to the Riesel ISD Policy for [Self-Administration of Asthma or Anaphylaxis Medicine](#) (FFAC).

Training

At a minimum of at least every two (2) years, school personnel who work with students shall complete an inservice training program on the management and prevention of allergic reactions by students including training related to the administration of medication with an auto-injector. This training will be conducted by persons with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management.

Bullying

Bullying, intimidation, or harassment of students with food allergies or other life threatening allergies is not acceptable in any form and will not be tolerated at school or during any school-related activity. All threats or harassment of students with food allergies will be taken very seriously and will be dealt with in accordance with the [Riesel ISD bullying policy](#) (FFI).

Confidentiality

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs* (R16-21-SCHO), and other statutes and regulations, the confidentiality of students with food allergies shall be maintained to the extent appropriate and as requested by the student's parents/caregivers.

Evaluation and Review

This policy shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, particularly after a serious allergic reaction has occurred at school or at a school-sponsored activity