

EASTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: SEVERE
ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS

ADOPTED: December 17, 2009

REVISED: July 17, 2012

	209.2. SEVERE ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS
1. Purpose	Easton Area School District Board of Directors is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all its students and employees. Severe allergy/anaphylaxis is a health condition that can lead to rapid death; therefore, special preparations are necessary to protect individuals with this condition.
2. Authority	The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to prepare detailed administrative procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.
3. Definitions	<p>Anaphylaxis sometimes called “allergic shock” - is a severe reaction resulting from exposure to an allergen or allergens, which can lead to rapid death if untreated. Peanuts are the most common allergen causing anaphylaxis in school students. Other foods most frequently implicated in anaphylaxis are tree nuts (e.g. hazelnuts, walnuts, pine nuts, almonds, cashews), cow’s milk, and eggs. Fish, shellfish, wheat, and soy are potentially lethal allergens as well, and anaphylaxis is occasionally induced by fruits and other foods. Non-food triggers of anaphylaxis reactions include insect venom, medications, latex, and rarely, vigorous exercise. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition regardless of the substance that triggers it.</p> <p>Severe Allergy - any reaction to an otherwise harmless food, food component, or non-food items that involves the body’s immune system. A reaction occurs when the body’s immune system responds abnormally to the protein or proteins in that particular food. The body reacts by flooding the system with histamines and other chemicals to fight off what is perceived as an invader in the body. Reactions to food or food ingredients that do not involve the immune system are called food intolerance or sensitivities.</p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>Protecting the individual with severe allergy/anaphylaxis involves three (3) major considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid the allergen trigger. 2. Recognize the occurrence of an allergic reaction.

5. Guidelines	<p>3. Provide immediate appropriate treatment.</p> <p>While the Board of School Directors cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, the Board will make every reasonable accommodation to ensure a safe environment for individuals with life-threatening allergies.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for ensuring that the proper safety protocols are in place and that the following requirements and guidelines are followed.</p> <p><u>Parents/Guardians Must:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contact the school nurse each year to complete and/or update all medical records, including specific information pertaining to any and all known allergies. Provide prompt updates.2. Provide written documentation from the attending physician to the school nurse regarding the specific allergy, severity and treatment.3. Provide an up-to-date supply of the medication prescribed by the physician and immediate replacements for medication used.4. When providing snacks and/or treats for classroom parties or events, consideration should be given for students with food allergies.5. The school nurse will consult with the student's and the school district's physician on an as-needed basis and will review the medical records and documentation from the attending physician regarding the student's allergy.6. An Individualized Health Plan (IHP) will be developed, as appropriate, for students with severe and/or life-threatening allergies. The IHP will be developed by the school nurse, in conjunction with the Parent(s). In most cases, the IHP will include an Emergency Health Care Plan.7. Students with severe allergies will be referred for Section 504 consideration. Section 504 Plans for students with allergies will incorporate a student's IHP.8. Regardless of the allergy, the district will not support a complete ban of specific or nonspecific food in the school district that may contribute to the student's allergy unless approved by the Board of School Directors.9. A peanut/nut-free table will be made available in all school cafeterias, where needed.
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10. Appropriate personnel, including a student's teacher(s), bus driver(s), administrators, cafeteria staff, etc., will be informed of a student's allergies, as deemed appropriate by the district or as per the student's IHP or Section 504 Plan.
11. School nurses in each building will provide annual inservice training to all faculty/staff in the building, which will cover:
 - a. School policies regarding protection of the anaphylactic individual from exposure to allergens.
 - b. How to recognize and treat anaphylactic reactions.
 - c. Use of epinephrine auto-injector.
 - d. The school's emergency response protocol.
 - e. Signs and symptoms of severe allergic reactions.

Appropriate training will be provided to all District bus drivers.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.41

Board Policy – 210