

Students

Students with Special Health Care Needs

Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs - Food Allergy Management and Glycogen Storage Disease

The focus of a Districtwide Food Allergy Management and Glycogen Storage Disease Plan (GSD) 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 special dietary needs 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 to ensure special dietary needs 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 and special dietary needs across all transitions. (Pre-K-Grade 12)

It is the policy of the Board of Education to follow the guidelines developed and promulgated by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Department of Education for students within the District with life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease. Such guidelines include (1) education and training for school personnel on the management of students with life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease, including training related to the administration of medication with a cartridge injector and the provision of food or dietary supplements, (2) procedures for responding to life threatening allergic reactions to food, (3) a process for the development of individualized health care and food allergy action plans for every student with a life-threatening food allergy, (4) a process for the development of individualized health care and glycogen storage disease action plans for every student with glycogen storage disease and such plan shall include, but not be limited to, the provision of food or dietary supplements by the school nurse or by any school employee approved by the school nurse, to a student with glycogen storage disease provided such plan does not prohibit a parent/guardian or a person they so designate, to provide food or dietary supplements on school grounds during the school day, and (5) protocols to prevent exposure to food allergens.

It is the Board's expectation that specific building-based guidelines/actions will take into account the health needs and well-being of all children without discrimination or isolation of any child. It is the Board's belief that education and open and informative communication are vital for the creation of an environment with reduced risks for all students and their families. In order to assist children with life-threatening allergies to assume more individual responsibility for maintaining their safety as they grow, it is the policy of the Board that guidelines shift as children advance through the primary grades and through secondary school.

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).