

Beacon Academy District # 4124

Adopted: 1.12.12

Revised:

Approved: 1.12.12

Policy Title: **Allergy Management Policy 535**

Beacon Academy is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students and staff. Beacon Academy understands the increasing prevalence of life threatening allergies among school populations. Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to allergens can be reduced in the school setting, Beacon Academy is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians, to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students and staff. The focus of allergy management shall be on prevention, education, awareness, communication, emergency response, and promote self-advocacy.

The goals for allergy management include:

1. To define a formal process for identifying, managing, and ensuring continuity of care for students with life-threatening allergies documented by a physician across all transitions (K-8). This process shall be outlined in detail in the district's administrative procedures manual.
2. To support the current health and safety of children who have life-threatening allergies in ways that are developmentally appropriate, promote self-advocacy and competence in self-care.
3. To ensure that interventions and individual health care plans for students with life-threatening allergies are based on medically accurate information and evidence-based practices.

In accordance with applicable law, it is the policy of the district to provide all students, through necessary accommodations where required, the opportunity to participate in all school programs and activities. Accordingly, the administration and staff will take into consideration needs of individuals documented with life threatening allergies in planning for district programs.

Life-Threatening Allergy Guidelines

BACKGROUND

Allergic reactions can span a wide range of severity of symptoms. The most severe and potentially life threatening reaction is anaphylaxis. When a physician assesses that a child's allergy will result in a potential for anaphylaxis, the child's condition meets the definition of "disability" and is covered under the Federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Anaphylaxis refers to a collection of symptoms affecting multiple systems in the body, the most dangerous of which are breathing difficulties and a drop in blood pressure. These severe allergic reactions can occur within minutes of exposure to the allergen or a reaction can be delayed for up to two hours.

MEDICATIONS

The most commonly prescribed medication for the treatment of anaphylaxis is: epinephrine. An over the counter medication for treatment would commonly be diphenhydramine (e.g. Benadryl) which is often used in conjunction with epinephrine in an event of anaphylaxis.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLANS

There are a variety of plans that are appropriate to use for students in our schools that experience health conditions that may impact a student's school day and academic program. Three examples of possible plans are listed below:

Allergy Action Plan – a plan completed by the student's licensed physician or physician's designated licensed extender, i.e., a Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant that is designed for use by both nursing and school personnel. It outlines the care that a student could need in an emergency situation and used as a guide to respond to a student who is experiencing a potentially life threatening situation.

Individual Accommodations Plan – A document developed by the nursing staff in collaboration with parents and the school team to identify reasonable accommodations for the child's needs throughout the school day.

Section 504 Plan- The intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is to provide students with disabilities equal access to educational programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may not be denied participation in school programs and activities solely on the basis of disability.

Beacon Academy requires a student with a documented physician diagnosed life threatening allergy to provide information necessary to complete an Individual Health Care Plan prior to their first day of attending classes. Administration and staff will determine when the student shall start attending classes.