

Policy

FOOD ALLERGIES

The Ventnor Board of Education acknowledges that food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can only be reduced in the school setting if schools work with students, parents, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students. The Ventnor School District shall take reasonable steps to identify students who may be at risk of life threatening food allergies and to prevent the likelihood of an allergic reaction.

The chief school administrator shall oversee the implementation of the following guidelines. The Ventnor Board of Education policies and procedures on food allergies shall be disseminated to the school community annually.

Family's Responsibility

- A. Notify the school of the child's allergies;
- B. Work with the school team to develop a Food Allergy Action Plan that promotes food allergy management and accommodates the child's needs throughout the school including the classroom, in the cafeteria, in after-care programs, during school-sponsored activities, and on the school bus, as well as a defined emergency allergic reaction plan.
- C. Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a physician, using the Food Allergy Action Plan as a guide. Include a photo of the child on written form;
- D. Replace medications after use or upon expiration;
- E. Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including:
 - 1. Safe and unsafe foods;
 - 2. Strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods;
 - 3. Symptoms of allergic reactions;
 - 4. How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem;
 - 5. How to read food labels (age appropriate);
 - 6. Review policies/procedures with the school staff, the child's physician, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.

School's Responsibility

- A. Be knowledgeable about and follow applicable federal laws including ADA, IDEA, Section 504, and FERPA and any state laws or district policies that apply;
- B. Review the health records submitted by parents and physicians;
- C. Include food-allergic students in school activities. Students should not be excluded from school activities solely based on their food allergy;
- D. Identify a core team including but not limited to, school nurse, teacher, principal, school food service and nutrition manager/director, and counselor (if available) to work with parents and the student (age appropriate) to establish a prevention plan. Changes to the prevention plan to promote food allergy management should be made with core team participation.

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- E. Provide training to staff that interact with the student on a regular basis in understanding food allergy, recognizing symptoms, emergency intervention, and working with other school staff to eliminate the use of food allergens in the allergic student's meals, educational tools, arts and crafts projects, or incentives.
- F. Review and/or practice the Food Allergy Action Plans before an allergic reaction occurs to assure the efficiency/effectiveness of the plans.
- G. Coordinate with the school nurse to be sure medications are appropriately stored, and be sure that an emergency kit is available that contains a physician's standing order for epinephrine. Students should be allowed to carry their own epinephrine, if age appropriate after approval from the student's physician/clinic, parent and school nurse, and allowed by state or local regulations.
- H. Designate school personnel who are properly trained to administer medications in accordance with the State Nursing and Good Samaritan Laws governing the administration of emergency medications.
- I. Be prepared to handle a reaction and ensure that there is a staff member available who is properly trained to administer medications during the school day regardless of time or location.
- J. Review policies/prevention plan with the core team members, parents/guardians, student (age appropriate), and physician after a reaction has occurred.
- K. Work with the district transportation administrator to assure that school bus driver training includes symptom awareness and what to do if a reaction occurs.
- L. Recommend that all buses have communication devices in case of an emergency.
- M. Enforce a "no eating" policy on school buses with exceptions made only to accommodate special needs under federal or similar laws, or school district policy. Discuss appropriate management of food allergy with family.
- N. Discuss field trips with the family of the food-allergic child to decide appropriate strategies for managing the food allergy.
- O. Follow federal/state/district laws and regulations regarding sharing medical information about the student.
- P. Take threats or harassment against an allergic child seriously.

Student's Responsibility

- A. Should not trade food with others;
- B. Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen;
- C. Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level;
- D. Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.

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Key Words

Allergy, Allergies, Food Allergy, Allergic Reaction, Anaphylaxis

<u>Cross References:</u>	*3516	Safety
	*3542	Food service
	*4112.4/4212.4	Employee health
	*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	*5125	Student records
	*5141	Student health
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
	*5141.4	Child abuse and neglect
	*5141.21	Administering medication
	*5142	Student safety
	*5200	Nonpublic school students
	*6142.4	Physical education and health

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.