Purpose:

Heron Lake-Okabena Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students.

General Statement of Policy:

Heron Lake-Okabena Board of Education 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, Heron Lake-Okabena Public Schools is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and physicians, to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for all students. The focus of allergy management shall be on prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response.

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 across all transitions (PreK-12).

2. To maintain the health and protect the safety of children who have life-threatening allergies in ways that are developmentally appropriate, promote self-advocacy and competence in self-care and provide appropriate educational opportunities.

3. To ensure that interventions and individual health care plans for students with lifethreatening 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 superintendent shall direct executive directors, district building administrators and staff, to act affirmatively and work closely with parents to assure that the needs of children with documented allergies are taken into consideration in planning for district programs. The district health services coordinator shall ensure the district’s management plan is reviewed and updated annually.