

SKS Allergy Policy

Rationale of new Policy Implementation:

- Increased incidence of life threatening food allergies in pediatric patients and the SKS student body calls us to implement a food allergy policy that protects both the students with food allergies and the SKS student body in its entirety

Goals and Objectives:

- To keep the SKS student body safe and help reduce the risk of anaphylactic reactions to food allergens
- To educate the entire extended school population on the importance of food allergy awareness

1. Identification /Safety Plan for Children with Allergies

Children with known life threatening allergies will be identified and food action plan will be provided by family to school nurse prior to start of school

Food Action Plan Form:

- FAP form will be filled out by pediatrician of each child with identified food allergy. Form will state allergy, when to implement plan of care related to exposure and EPI pen order in case of exposer
- EPI pen must be provided along with picture of student for use in nurse's office and in café.

Student Safe Treat box

- Allergy students will be given option to store "safe treats" in homeroom
- Treats will be used by student in event of a classroom party to avoid risk of allergen exposure. Use of "safe snack" is strongly recommended by school as safest option for allergy students.
- Allergy students may participate in classroom snack if parent gives written (email) permission of snack prior to gathering. Close communication between allergy parent, homeroom teachers and homeroom parents is essential for safety of students.

Allergy Safe Lunch Table

- Sharing of food prohibited in cafeteria.
- Allergy safe table will be set in cafeteria. This is strongly recommended by PA state allergy network for prevention of allergen exposure in cafeteria setting.
- Cafeteria staff will check in students to their assigned seats
- Students will be organized according to allergy
- Special care will be taken by staff to clean allergen table after eating.
- Children may invite a friend or "buddy" to the allergy safe table with them. The buddy must have an approved allergen free lunch. This set up can be organized with help of homeroom teacher.
- Parents may opt out of allergen table by signing Opt Out form. Allergen table is strongly recommended by school especially for grades K-2/3.

2. Creation of safe school environment for prevention of allergen exposure

- New **Guidelines for Food at School Events and Monthly Birthdays** must be followed precisely (see below for details)
- All staff, including teachers and employees in the cafeteria, will be instructed on how to identify signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction for those smaller children who may have difficulty communicating what is wrong.
- All staff will be instructed by the school nurse on how to give EPI pen. Epi pens will be stored safely with picture in nurses office with order from physician.
Exception: Teachers will carry EPI pens for their students on school field trips.
- Allergy safe table in place in cafeteria
- No sharing of food recommended for all students
- Food Action Plan in place for each student with life threatening allergy
- Student safe treat box provided for each allergy child by family
- Continuing education will be provided on an annual or bi annual basis for entire student body and staff on risks of food allergies and how to keep our space safe to prevent contamination

3. Guidelines for Food at School Events and Monthly Birthday Celebrations

Note: The following rules are an attempt to keep peanut and nut products from being brought into the classroom during school parties. While this will not eliminate allergen exposure for all of our students, it will help limit the most common allergens.

Parents of those with milk/dairy allergies etc. must work closely with homeroom teachers and parents to establish safe snacks at parties or have their child use their “safe treat box” (**recommended as safest option**).

Birthdays will be celebrated on a monthly basis only by discretion of homeroom teacher and with coordination of homeroom parent.

- **No baked goods** accepted at school.
- Food brought in must be **whole fruit or packaged goods with a clear label of ingredients**
- Food labeled from a facility containing peanuts and/ or nuts or food that may be used on equipment that processes peanuts and/or nuts will **NOT** be accepted.
Note: Dunkin Donuts foods will NOT be accepted due to nuts in their facility and therefore risk of contamination
- **No candy**, of any kind, will be permitted
- Snacks given by teachers and staff in after school programs must adhere to these guidelines
- Programs run at night or on weekends do not have to follow food policy however it is recommended that they do so and/or take care to limit the allergens bought into school space.