

Severe Allergens

Students and adults may have allergic reactions to products. Although the Bismarck Public School (BPS) District cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, it is the goal of BPS to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to those with severe allergies, to educate the community about allergens, and to maintain and regularly update a system-wide protocol for responding to the needs of students and staff with life-threatening allergies. A system-wide effort necessitates cooperation of staff, students, and families.

The Board suggests that Administration consider the following steps to reduce opportunities for students and/or adults to be exposed to dangerous or life-threatening allergens:

1. Identify and work to eliminate from school food service menus foods or food products that are known to potentially trigger life-threatening allergic reactions;
2. Establish a uniform snack policy that reduces or eliminates opportunities for foods that are commonly known to trigger allergic reactions from being brought into classrooms;
3. Make available to parents, students, and staff educational materials about allergens and recommend that foods which are known to cause life-threatening allergens are not brought into the school;
4. Establish age-appropriate procedures and guidelines for students and schools within the District that minimize the risk for students to be exposed to life-threatening allergens;
5. Establish a uniform policy to ensure that the lines of communication are open between parents, teachers, and staff, recognizing it is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to inform the school district about a child's medically certified allergic condition which might affect the child's welfare or safety;
6. Establish uniform policies and procedures for the district to cooperate with parents and appropriate health professionals in the development of an Allergy/Anaphylaxis or other appropriate Action Plan;
7. Provide education and training to staff regarding their roles and responsibilities, medical emergency planning at the building level, and age-appropriate emergency and accommodation planning for individual students;
8. Review and update the handbook, *Managing Allergies in the Bismarck Public School Setting*, every two years by the School Health Committee and school nurses or other designated staff.