

Hathaway Brown School's Peanut and Food Allergy Policy

Hathaway Brown School (the "School") recognizes that the prevalence of food allergies among children is increasing. The number of young people who had a food or digestive allergy increased 18% between 1997 and 2007 and food allergies now affect an estimated 4%–6% of children in the United States.

In some instances, allergic reactions to foods may be severe and even life threatening and allergic reactions to foods have become the most common cause of anaphylaxis in community health settings. Thus, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.719, this policy is intended to create a framework for protecting students with known food allergies and to reduce the likelihood of severe allergic reactions while at School. This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, students, School nurses, teachers, administrative staff, and other community members.

**THE SCHOOL IS NOT A PEANUT- OR TREE NUT-FREE
ENVIRONMENT AND IT REMAINS THE STUDENTS'
RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID POTENTIALLY HARMFUL FOOD
PRODUCTS**

Responsibilities

Parents and guardians of students with allergies, or students with allergies age eighteen and older, shall:

- Promptly notify the School division head and nurse when they become aware that their student has a food allergy and at the beginning of each school year thereafter. The notice shall include a healthcare provider-documented allergy and a diet modification order, if necessary;
- Provide the School with prescribed emergency medications;
- Execute a medication authorization form, and/or permission to carry and self-administer epinephrine auto-injector (epi-pen) form; and
- Educate their students about allergy management at School. Allergy management education includes, without limitation, identification of "safe foods" and the vigilance required to self-monitor food products available at school functions, in the School stores, and in School vending machines and from other students.

The School, upon receiving proper notification that a student has a food allergy, shall:

- When serving students, make all reasonable efforts to ensure the School's dining hall is nut-free;

- Cooperate with the student and his or her parents or guardians to reduce the likelihood of an allergic reaction at School;
- Maintain any student-provided medication for emergency use;
- Make efforts to inform appropriate School staff and administrators of the student's food allergy and related needs;
- As needed, provide students (in the first grade and above) with flexible seating to accommodate food allergies;
- Encourage any private food vendors who may come to school to screen and label foods served at various School functions and store/cafes; and
- Train selected faculty and staff on the emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors annually.

All parent/guardians, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to:

- Carefully read all labels and explain those labels to their child(ren) prior to sending any food product to the School or a School event, e.g., class parties, bake sales, etc.
- When providing food for the class on a special occasion, be sure to make only nut-free options

This policy shall take effect in full on September 1, 2016.

Division Head

School Nurse