

## KIRKSVILLE R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

### EXPLANATION: STUDENT ALLERGY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY

House Bill 1188 (2012) 167.635, RsMo., allows school districts to maintain a supply of asthma-related rescue medications that can be administered by the school nurse or another employee trained and supervised by the nurse when the nurse or trained employee believes, based on training in recognizing acute asthma episodes, that a student is having a life-threatening asthma episode.

According to the statute, qualified employees will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering asthma-related rescue medications in good faith and according to standard medical practice.

Research shows that allergies can negatively impact student achievement by affecting concentration, auditory processing and attendance. Further, healthy students are better learners. In addition to posing health risks, allergies can be potentially deadly for some individuals.

#### **Identification**

Each school will attempt to identify students with life-threatening allergies, including food allergies. An allergic reaction is an immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions can range from mild to severe and can even be life threatening. At enrollment, the person enrolling the student will be asked to provide information on any allergies the student may have.

#### **Students with Known Allergies**

Students with allergies that rise to the level of a disability as defined by law will be accommodated in accordance with district policies and procedures pertaining to the identification and accommodation of students with disabilities. An individual health plan (IHP), including an emergency action plan (EAP), may be developed for students with allergies that do not rise to the level of disability.

All staff members are required to follow any Section 504 plan or IHP/EAP developed for a student by the district. Staff members who do not follow an existing Section 504 plan or IHP/EAP will be disciplined, and such discipline may include termination.

## **Education and Training**

All staff members will be regularly (yearly) trained on the causes and symptoms of and responses to allergic reactions. Training will include instruction on the use of prefilled epinephrine auto syringes and the administration of asthma-related medications.

In accordance with the law, qualified employees will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering epinephrine or asthma-related rescue medications in good faith and according to standard medical practices. A qualified employee is one who has been trained to administer medication, including epinephrine, in accordance with standard medical practice.

Age-appropriate education on allergies and allergic reactions will be provided to students as such education aligns with state Grade-Level Expectations (GLSs) for health education. Education will include potential causes, signs and symptoms of allergic reactions; information on avoiding allergens; and simple steps students can take to keep classmates safe.

## **Confidentiality**

Information about individual students with allergies will be provided to all staff members and others who need to know the information to provide a safe learning environment for the student. Information about individual students with allergies will not be shared with students and others who do not have a legitimate educational interest in the information unless authorized by the parent/guardian or as otherwise permitted by the law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

## **Response**

Response to an allergic reaction shall be in accordance with established procedures, including application of the student's Section 504 plan or IHP/EAP. Information about known allergies will be shared in accordance with FERPA. Each building will maintain an adequate supply of prefilled epinephrine auto syringes and asthma-related rescue medications to be administered in accordance with Board Policy.