

FOOD ALLERGY GUIDELINES

Kearney School District

The School District has issued Food Allergy Guidelines *applicable for food brought into the classroom or instructional areas*. The guidelines outline specific requirements that must be complied with in order for food to be brought safely into the classroom. The guidelines provide clear and concise procedures in this area, and all faculty and administration are aware of the guidelines.

FOOD BROUGHT INTO THE CLASSROOM must be: prepackaged foods and /or foods prepared by OPAA Food Services. *No homemade items will be allowed.* **ALL** foods/treats must be **prepackaged, store bought** items with a **nutritional analysis present on the packaging**. The presence of this information will help us to avoid giving an allergen to a student with a known food allergy.

We are also requiring that the prepackaged foods with the nutritional analysis be **tree nut and peanut free** snacks (*tree nuts include nuts such as walnuts, pecans and coconuts.*) Of those students with a food allergy in the district the majority are allergic to nuts and peanut butter items. These students' allergies are considered serious to life-threatening allergies. Avoidance to these items is the safest.

In addition to the listing of any nut products in the item's nutritional label, the product cannot be manufactured or processed in a facility that also manufactures or processes nut products due to the risk of cross-contamination:



Manufactured on equipment that processes products containing peanuts and/or tree nuts



Manufactured in a facility that processes products containing peanuts and/or tree nuts

We encourage designated seating in the cafeteria for our severe food allergy students. This area will be considered a "safe zone". Other classmates may sit in this area provided they are not consuming any allergen of concern. The most common severe allergy of our students is to nut products. Students having a school-prepared hot lunch are considered "safe", as OPAA does not serve foods prepared with nuts or nut products. Our "safe zone" requires a specific cleaning protocol to avoid cross contamination, which is another step in providing safety. Due to the above we feel it is necessary to encourage the "safe zone" area for our severe allergy students.

Building Health Room Staff is available to help as needed. For a complete list of tree nut and nut ingredients, and for more instruction on how to read a food label, please visit our website www.kearney.k12.mo.us.