

STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

The Agawam Public Schools recognizes that an increasing number of its students have life-threatening allergies (L.T.A.s). However, the Agawam Public Schools cannot guarantee to provide an allergen-free environment for all students with life-threatening allergies, nor prevent any harm to students in emergencies. The district's goal is to minimize the risk of exposure to food allergens that pose a threat to those students, educate the community, and maintain and regularly update a system-wide protocol for responding to their needs.

This protocol will address how the Agawam Public Schools will identify students with LTAs, train faculty and staff, and prepare for emergencies. To the best of its ability, the Agawam Public Schools will provide annual training for faculty and staff in the areas of:

- Common allergens that cause life-threatening allergies such as foods, medications, latex, and stinging insects
- Signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction
- Steps to take in the event of an allergic reaction emergency
- Correct use of an Epi-Pen

Note: Agawam Public Schools will endeavor to avoid any foods with peanut/tree-nut contents being served in the elementary, middle, junior, or senior high schools. It is important to note that the ingredients in many food products may be changed by the manufacturer without specific notice or indication of such change. While food service personnel should routinely recheck products for known food allergens, not all such situations may be detected. Food served may contain peanut/tree-nut by-products or may have been made in a plant that produces peanut/tree-nut products.

Agawam Public Schools will not be responsible for monitoring food from homes. However, Agawam Public Schools will endeavor to control packaged food products made available to children.

Agawam Public Schools 2008-2009

Approved by the School Committee on December 9, 2008, by a vote of 7 - 0