

South San Antonio ISD

Peanut Allergy Policy

GENERAL

The following Texas state guidelines have been set in place to address how to handle food allergies in schools:

- Texas Education Code, Chapter 25, Section 25.0022 requires “a parent or legal guardian disclose (at the request of the school district) whether a child has a food allergy.” The parent or legal guardian of the child with the food allergy must specify the food that causes the allergic reaction as well as describe the nature of the allergic reaction.
- Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Section 38.0151 “requires the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body adopt and administer a policy for the care of students with diagnosed food allergies at risk for anaphylaxis based on the guidelines developed by the legislated Ad Hoc Committee.’
- Texas Education Code, Subchapter E states; “Each school district may adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors at each campus in the district or school.”

South San Antonio ISD is implementing the following policy to protect our students who have life-threatening peanut or tree nut allergies and to create added safety for students with allergies:

- Each child identified with a diagnosed peanut allergy will have an emergency plan written by the school nurse. This plan will include care necessary should a reaction occur. This may include access to an Epi-Pen.
- The school nurse will coordinate proper storage of medications, and availability of emergency kits, which will contain the physician’s standing order for epinephrine along with an emergency plan specific to that child.
- The school nurse will provide educational material to the school staff members that are in contact with the child to ensure understanding of the food allergy, recognize symptoms, and emergency protocol.
- SSAISD schools will evaluate documented allergy concerns on a student-by-student basis.

FIELD TRIPS

No food shall be consumed the bus; exceptions should be only to accommodate special needs under federal or district policy. A Principal Designee must carry the physician ordered Epi-Pen for the child who has a peanut allergy.

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CAFETERIA

The school menus in all SSAISD elementary and middle schools exclude all peanut food items and items containing tree nuts (walnuts, pecans, etc.). South San Antonio High School may offer single serve pre-packaged peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable sandwiches and individual peanut butter dipping cups as a menu choice. Only these two single serve pre-packaged items will be available for high school students to choose from when offered. Items will be clearly marked as containing peanuts and will remain in sealed packaging until collected by the student, eliminating the risk of cross contamination during preparation.

The school nurse must report any physician diagnosed food allergies to the school cafeteria manager. The school nurse's office will provide the cafeteria manager with a list of students with food allergies and update as needed. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may require a school to provide modifications that may include but is not limited to "designating allergy-free eating areas such as peanut-free tables, and providing clearly labeled, dairy-free, or other allergen-free food options in school cafeterias, dining halls, and at school events."

A "no sharing and no trading" food policy at lunch and snack time will be encouraged.

CLASSROOM PARTIES and FUNCTIONS

SSAISD encourages the avoidance of peanut/tree nut products being allowed in classrooms or any school-related function including before and after school events, student incentives, etc. (note: accidental ingestion from baked goods and candies given out as classroom treats can cause anaphylactic reactions. Some brands of jellybeans have peanut flour in them)

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

A core team will provide a training session. Parents should be partners in the training process whenever possible. Staff will be educated on signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and emergency procedures to follow in the event of a reaction.

For more information visit:

[Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies at Risk for Anaphylaxis](#)

[Allergies and Anaphylaxis | Texas DSHS](#)

[Section 504 Protections for Students with Food Allergies](#)