

August, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health and well-being. On January, 2011 NSSEO's school board adopted a policy for the management of life-threatening food allergies. Our policy is in compliance with the recent Public Act 96-0349 and meets the guidelines created by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

To ensure that every student in our schools is protected several safeguards will be put into place, which include the following:

- Staff members will participant in a biannual in-service training program for school personnel who work with students. This training will be conducted by persons with expertise in anaphylactic reactions and management.
- If there is an identified need, our schools will provide "nut-free" tables/areas for children with nut allergies and an "allergen-free" table for others if necessary.
- Food labels will be on file in our child's school for pre-packaged food items.
- All foods to be shared with other students must be store bought, wrapped, and accompanied with an ingredient list.
- Protocols for appropriate cleaning methods following events held at the school that involves food.
- An Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) will be developed for every student with an identified life-threatening food allergy to create strategies for management of the student's food allergy and determine who should be familiar with the student's IHCP.

Because our Food Service Personnel cannot guarantee that all food served in the general lunch program is allergen-free, parents have access to reading food labels to identify these ingredients in the products used by the school cafeterias/vending machines. Parents of children with life threatening food allergies who choose for their child to participate in the meal program may request allergen-free meals. Allergen-free meal preparation is in accordance with USDA Guidelines. Students with severe life-threatening food allergies may request food substitutions as directed by the physician on the required form.

Please feel free contact your child's principal with any specific questions or concerns. In closing, I wish you and your families a very healthy and successful school year.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Hackett, EdD
Superintendent