

BELLA ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

The School recognizes that peanut and other food allergies may pose a severe or life threatening risk to students. In accordance with Section 3313.719 of the Ohio Revised Code, the School has adopted this Food Allergy Policy in consultation with parents, School employees, School volunteers, students and community members to establish procedures for identifying, accommodating and reducing the likelihood of severe allergic reactions among students with known food allergies while at school.

I. PARENT/STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Parents of students or students age eighteen (18) or older, with allergies are required to notify the School of any known allergies at the beginning of each school year or upon learning of such allergy if the school year has already begun. Such notice may be provided in response to School enrollment forms completed by the student if over 18 or the student's parent or guardian, or by other acceptable means such as timely, written notice to the School's administrator.
- B. Parents of students with life threatening allergies must:
1. Ensure that the student has access to emergency medications during school hours, if prescribed;
 2. Execute any appropriate forms, including an emergency medical authorization form, medication administration form, and/or Food Allergy Action Plan (see Section II.A)), as required;
 3. Obtain written approval from the student's physician permitting the student to carry and use an epinephrine injector to treat anaphylaxis, if applicable, and in accordance with the School's policy;
 4. Cooperate with the School to formulate the Food Allergy Action Plan as referenced herein (Section II.A); and
 5. Provide current emergency contact information and update regularly.
- C. Parents are responsible for educating their student about managing his or her allergy at school, including but not limited to instructions concerning:
1. Safe and unsafe foods;
 2. Strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods;

3. Symptoms of allergic reactions; and
4. How and when to tell an adult that he or she is having an allergy-related problem.

II. PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

- A. The School will develop a Food Allergy Action Plan (“Plan”) for students with life threatening allergies.
- B. The Plan will address: (1) what actions will be taken to avoid exposure at the School, and (2) what actions will be taken in the event of student exposure. The Plan will be developed through consultation between the student’s parents or legal guardians, the recommendations of the student’s physician or allergist, and the School. Once created, this Plan will be reviewed and updated by staff, when appropriate.
- C. The School will share the Plan with appropriate staff. All staff who interact with the student on a regular basis should understand food allergies, be able to recognize symptoms, and should know what to do in an emergency.
- D. With the consent of the student’s parents or legal guardian, the Plan may provide a mechanism for the School to provide notice to the student’s classmates and/or the parents or legal guardian of the student’s classmates regarding a life threatening food allergy in the classroom.
- E. The School will follow the procedures detailed in its approved medication administration policy which is outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.