

HOWARD GARDNER MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

	Students/Families	209.1
	Food Allergy Management Policy	ADOPTED DATE: February 18, 2020 REVIEWED DATE: REVISED DATE: August 18, 2026

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students with severe or life-threatening food allergies and shall establish policy to address food allergy management at HGMICS in order to:

1. Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.
2. Ensure a rapid and effective response in the case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
3. Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities, including classroom parties and field trips.

The focus of food allergy management shall be on prevention, education, awareness, communication and emergency response. All staff at Howard Gardner MI Charter School play a role in ensuring the health and safety of students with chronic conditions, such as allergies. Parents of students with allergies must notify the school nurse about their child's condition at the start of school and throughout the year as the condition changes or new conditions are diagnosed. The school nurse is responsible for collecting and disseminating the relevant information related to students with allergies, developing allergy management plans, and advising/training staff.

The school has daily responsibility to ensure that the student's management plan is followed in the case of food allergies, Food Service personnel are informed of those foods that must be monitored or eliminated. Additionally, an adjustment must be made when planning classroom activities and school celebrations to ensure the health and safety of the students with allergies.

1. The parent of any child with a school allergy is required to have an allergy action plan on file in the medical room. This form is to be completed and signed by both the parents and the child's physician.

2. Medicines to treat allergies must be provided to the school nurse by the parents at the beginning of the academic year. All medicines must be in their original containers and be clearly labeled with the child's name. These medicines must be hand-carried into the school by the parent and cannot be sent in with the student. Medicines to treat any acute allergic reactions are to be kept in the medical room or on the student if permitted.

3. Parents must also have the form(s) completed by their physician giving permission to administer these medicines. Forms need to be brought to school on the first day of the school year with the student. These forms are available on the school website.

4. If the nurse is not present, she may designate other personnel who will be trained to administer these medicines in her absence.

5. Some older children may be allowed to carry these medicines. The parent, physician, and school nurse must all agree that the student is responsible enough to do this.

*These medications are to always be carried on the student's person in a fanny pack type device.

6. When a child leaves the building for a field trip or traveling with their class on school property the meds will travel with the student, and the responsible adult familiar with the administration of these meds will be present. IF THEY DON'T HAVE MEDICATION, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO ON TRIP.

If the allergy is a food allergy the child's teacher(s) and food service will be made aware of this food allergy. The teacher will make classmates and parents aware of this allergy.

7. A peanut-free table will be available in the cafeteria for children with peanut allergies. If a parent chooses to opt-out of this, a waiver must be signed and kept on file at the school.

8. Due to the dangers or late-stage Anaphylaxis, anytime injectable Epinephrine is given an ambulance will be called and the student will be transported to the emergency room.

Authority

The Board adopts this policy in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and the guidelines established jointly by the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health in 24 P.S. § 14-1422.3 on managing severe or life-threatening food allergies in the schools.[\[1\]](#)

Definitions

Food allergy - an abnormal, adverse reaction to a food that is triggered by the body's immune system.

Medical Plans of Care - written documents individualized for a particular student with a severe or life-threatening food allergy to address the student's needs throughout the school day, including:

1. **Emergency Care Plan (ECP)** - a medical plan of care based on the information provided in the student's Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) and distributed to all school personnel who have responsibilities for the student which specifically describes how to recognize a food allergy emergency and what to do when signs or symptoms of these conditions are observed.
2. **Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP)** - a medical plan of care that provides written directions for school health personnel to follow in meeting the individual student's healthcare needs. The plan describes functional problem areas, sets goals for overcoming problems, and lists tasks/interventions to meet the goals. The IHP shall include a Food Allergy Medical Management Plan developed by a student's personal healthcare team and family, which shall outline the student's prescribed healthcare regimen and be signed by the student's board-certified allergist, family physician, physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner.
3. **Related Services Component in Individualized Education Program (IEP)** - that part of an IEP for a student receiving special education and related services which includes reference to development and implementation of an IHP and ECP for students with a documented severe or life-threatening food allergy as well as identifying the medical accommodations, educational aids and services to address the student's needs.
4. **Section 504 Service Agreement** - a medical plan of care which references development and implementation of an IHP and ECP as well as other accommodations, educational aids and services a student with a documented severe or life-threatening food allergy requires in order to have equal access to educational programs, nonacademic services and extracurricular activities as students without food allergies.

Guidelines

Prior to enrollment at HGMICS or immediately after a diagnosis of a food allergy, appropriate medical plans of care such as an ECP, IHP, Section 504 Service Agreement and/or IEP shall be developed for each student identified with a food allergy. Plans shall be developed by the school nurse, in collaboration with the student's healthcare provider, the student's parents/guardians, school nutrition staff, the student, if appropriate, and any other appropriate persons.

Where a medical plan of care is developed, it should carefully describe the plan for coverage and care of a student during the school day as well as during school-sponsored activities which take place while the student is under school jurisdiction during or outside of school hours. Medical plans of care shall include a component which provides information to the school nutrition service regarding each student with documented severe or life-threatening food allergies.

Medical plans of care should include both preventative measures to help avoid accidental exposure to allergens and emergency measures in case of exposure, including administration of emergency medication.

A complete set of a student's current medical plans of care related to food allergies shall be maintained by the school nurse. Information or copies of the different components of a student's medical plans of care shall be provided to appropriate personnel who may be involved in implementation of the medical plans of care.

Accommodating Students With Disabling Special Dietary Needs

Students with food allergies may be identified, evaluated and determined to be disabled, in which case HGMICS shall make appropriate accommodations, substitutions or modifications in accordance with the student's medical plans of care.

HGMICS must provide reasonable accommodations, substitutions or modifications for students with disabling dietary needs. The student's physician shall determine and document if the student has a disabling dietary need. Examples of a disability under this policy would include metabolic conditions (e.g., diabetes), severe food allergies or cerebral palsy.

Pursuant to 7 CFR 15b.26(d)(1) and 15b.40 (a), Students who fall under this provision may be required to have a written medical statement signed by a licensed physician. Charter School requires the certification of this medical statement which shall be included with the student's IHP. The medical statement must identify:[2]

1. The student's special dietary disability.
2. An explanation of why the disability restricts the student's diet.
3. The major life activity(ies) affected by the disability.
4. The food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet.
5. The food or choice of foods that must be provided as a substitute.

Accommodating Students With Nondisabling Special Dietary Needs

HGMICS may, at its discretion, make appropriate accommodations, substitutions or modifications for students who have a special dietary need, but who do not meet the definition of disability, such as a food intolerance or allergy that does not cause a reaction that meets the definition of a disability. The decision to accommodate such a student shall be made on a case-by-case basis.

Students who fall under this provision must have a written medical statement signed by a physician, physician assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner identifying the following:

1. The medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the student's diet.
2. The food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet.
3. The food or choice of foods to be substituted.

Confidentiality

HGMICS shall maintain the confidentiality of students with food allergies, to the extent appropriate and as requested by the student's parents/guardians. HGMICS staff shall maintain the confidentiality of student records as required by law, regulations and Board policy.

Delegation of Responsibility

The CEO or designee, in coordination with the school nurse, school nutrition services staff, and other pertinent staff, shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy or adopt as administrative regulations the suggested guidelines developed by the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health and National School Boards Association (NSBA) guidance on managing severe or life-threatening food allergies in district schools, including all classrooms and instructional areas, school cafeterias, outdoor activity areas, on school buses, during field trips, and during school activities held before the school day and after the school day.

Administrative regulations should address the following components:

1. Identification of students with food allergies and provision of school health services.
2. Development and implementation of individual written management plans.
3. Medication protocols, including methods of storage, access and administration.
4. Development of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to creating a healthy school environment.
5. Communication and confidentiality.
6. Emergency response.
7. Professional development and training for school personnel.
8. Awareness education for students.
9. Awareness education and resources for parents/guardians.
10. Monitoring and evaluation.

The CEO or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, staff and the public about HGMICS' food allergy management policy by publishing such in handbooks and newsletters, on the district's website, and through posted notices and other efficient methods.

[Emergency Care Plan Form \(ECP\)](#)[RW1]

Dietary Accommodation Form

Peanut Free Table Waiver

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1422.3
2. 7 CFR 15b.26(d)(1);
15b.40 (a);
24 P.S. 1422.1;
22 PA Code 12.41;
20 U.S.C. 1232g;
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.;
29 U.S.C. 794;
42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.;
- 7 CFR Part 15;
- 28 CFR Part 35;
- 34 CFR Part 99;
- 34 CFR Part 104; and
- 34 CFR Part 300

Reference:

[Safe at Schools and Ready to Learn: A Comprehensive Policy Guide for Protecting Students with Life-Threatening Food Allergies – National School Boards Association](#)

[Pennsylvania Guidelines for Management of Food Allergies in Schools: Recommendations and Resource Guide for School Personnel – Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health](#)
