Anaphylaxis Policy Handbook

North Carolina

National Association of State Boards of Education

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Introduction

In 2013 the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) launched an initiative to help state boards of education develop student health policies regarding anaphylaxis and epinephrine access and use. Soon after, NASBE published *Anaphylaxis and Schools: Developing Policies for Treating Students with Severe Allergic Reactions*, a discussion guide that explains the issue and sets the stage for policy development. This year, NASBE develops customized policy handbooks to help select states improve their policies.

Rise in Food Allergies among Children

An increasing number of children in the United States suffer from food allergies. According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of children with food allergies rose about 50 percent between 1997 and 2011. Nearly 6 million children in the United States, or 8 percent, have allergies, and young children are most affected.

Allergic reactions can significantly affect children, their families, and the schools they attend. Of the 8 percent of U.S. children with allergies, 38.7 percent had a history of severe reactions and 30.4 percent had multiple allergies.

Anaphylaxis is a sudden, life-threatening allergic reaction whose incidence in the United States has risen, especially among the young. Ambulatory care visits caused by food allergies tripled between 1993 and 2006. From 2003 to 2006, an estimated annual average of 317,000 food allergy–related, ambulatory care visits by those under 18 was reported.

There are multiple triggers for anaphylaxis. Food allergies are the most common, followed by insect stings, medications, and latex exposure. Approximately 1,500 deaths attributed to allergic reactions occur annually in the United States.

Because there is no cure for food allergies, strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions are important preventive measures. Experts agree that prompt administration of the drug epinephrine can greatly increase positive outcomes for individuals experiencing life-threatening allergic reactions.

In 2006, about 88 percent of schools had one or more students with food allergies. Many schools are putting systems in place to prevent exposure to allergens and to respond effectively to children experiencing anaphylaxis. Studies show that 16 to 18 percent of children with food allergies have experienced a reaction because of something they ate while at school. What’s more, 25 percent of those who experienced a life-threatening reaction at school had never been diagnosed with a food allergy.
To keep children safe, school staff should be ready to address the needs of those with known food allergies. They should also be prepared to respond effectively to the emergency needs of children who are not known to have food allergies but who exhibit allergic signs and symptoms. Experts agree that efforts should be made to both eliminate allergens and ensure epinephrine is accessible. To reach this goal, state and local policymakers, educators, health practitioners, and parents can work closely together to develop comprehensive anaphylaxis and food allergy policies or guidelines. Yet only a handful of states have such policies, and laws governing stocking of epinephrine for students without known allergies are limited. Although many
schools have implemented some steps to manage food allergies, systematic planning for prevention and emergency response remains incomplete and inconsistent.\textsuperscript{12}

NASBE’s policy handbooks on anaphylaxis are designed to enable individual state boards and their partners to discuss relevant existing policies in their states, identify policy gaps, and recommend action. They also should build the capacity of state policymakers to lead a discussion around anaphylaxis issues at school.

**How State Policy Changes Can Save Children**

In 2012, a first grader in Chesterfield, Virginia, died at school after suffering a severe allergic reaction to a peanut a classmate gave her on the playground during recess. She was sent to school clinic immediately, but she did not have an epinephrine auto-injector, and the school didn’t have it in stock either. By the time the emergency crew arrived, the girl was no longer breathing.

Three months later, Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 1107/Senate Bill 656, required local school boards to adopt and implement policies for the possession and administration of epinephrine in Virginia public schools by the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. The Department of Health (VDH), in conjunction with the Departments of Education (DOE) and Health Professions, established a stakeholder workgroup which developed revised guidelines for the recognition and treatment of anaphylaxis in the school setting. These revisions were incorporated into the existing “Virginia School Health Guidelines”. The statute required the workgroup to address: the issuance and implementation of oral or written orders or standing protocols; consideration as to who may prescribe and/or issue standing protocols for the possession, storage, and administration of epinephrine; specification of training needs and requirements for the administration of epinephrine; appropriate liability protections; and any issues requiring statutory or regulatory amendment. House Bill 1468 enacted by the 2013 General Assembly amended the Code to include “an employee of a local governing body, or an employee of a local health department” to the list of entities in Code to be included in school policies for possession and administration of epinephrine, be exempt from liability, and with authorization by a prescriber and training may possess and administer epinephrine to students believed to be having anaphylactic reaction.\textsuperscript{13}

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**What is Epinephrine?**

Epinephrine—also known as adrenaline—is a hormone that the body produces in response to stress. When given by injection, it rapidly improves breathing, increases heart rate, and reduces swelling of the face, lips, and throat. It must be administered by injection and is available in self-administration devices that can be managed by allergic individuals themselves and those responsible for their care.
Over a decade ago, the death of two students prompted Massachusetts to become the first state to address anaphylaxis management at school. Since then, many states have taken action of varying degrees, though not all have enacted legislation or developed guidelines. A number of shortcomings have been cited in schools’ responses with respect to treatment and awareness. These include the following gaps in training, medicine availability, and procedures:

- Many schools do not provide their staff with education on how to prevent allergic reactions, such as by reading food labels, or how to respond to life-threatening events with appropriate use of epinephrine.\(^{14}\)
- Treatment is sometimes delayed because staff do not recognize severe allergic reactions.\(^{15}\)
- Epinephrine is not always available\(^{16}\) or is administered unsuccessfully.\(^{17}\)
- Epinephrine is not stocked or the student experiences a first reaction at school.\(^{18}\)
- Written, student-specific emergency plans for staff to follow are not always available or used.\(^{19}\)

There is no doubt that these problems have led to deaths and near-fatal emergencies. The next chapter examines the elements of a comprehensive plan that states, school districts, and schools can use to address this issue.

**Federal Policy**

The 2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act required the secretary of health and human services to “develop guidelines … to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs” and “make such guidelines available to local educational agencies, schools ... and other interested entities and individuals.” In response, the CDC developed the Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Programs, which were released in October 2013. While much of the information is helpful to state-level policymakers, the guidelines are not specifically targeted to this group. Among the topics covered:

- Parental obligations for notifying school officials about their child’s allergies;
- Creation and maintenance of individual plans for food allergy management;
- Strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to allergens in school;
- Food allergy management training of school personnel who regularly come into contact with children with life-threatening food allergies and the authorization and training of personnel to administer epinephrine when the nurse is not immediately available; and
- Timely accessibility of epinephrine by school personnel when the nurse is not immediately available.
The School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act, which President Obama signed into law on November 13, 2013, provides an incentive for states to pass legislation that allows schools to keep stocks of epinephrine on hand for use if students or staff show symptoms of severe allergic reactions. The act also encourages states to adopt Good Samaritan laws that shield trained school personnel who administer epinephrine from civil liability. Under the act, states that have such laws will be given an additional preference when they apply for federal asthma-related grants for child health services.

Other federal laws help protect children at risk of anaphylaxis, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations (7 CFR Part 15b). When a physician diagnoses a child with a food allergy that is potentially life threatening, the condition can be classified as a hidden disability under Section 504. IDEA requires that a free and appropriate public education be provided for individuals with disabilities that impact a student’s ability to learn. If a student has a learning disability and a life-threatening allergy, IDEA may apply. The US Department of Education has information about the rights of students with hidden disabilities at www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hq5269.html.

The ADA extends Section 504 coverage beyond the public school setting to include private, parochial, religious schools, and day care centers. The USDA regulation requires substitutions or modifications in school meals for students whose disabilities restrict their diet. When considering what regulations and laws apply to a given circumstance, it is suggested that officials seek legal counsel as necessary.

Elements of a Comprehensive Policy

Keeping children safe from life-threatening food allergies at school takes more than stocking epinephrine auto-injectors at every school. NASBE’s discussion guide highlighted elements that constitute a comprehensive policy. This handbook outlines three categories of a broad approach to addressing anaphylaxis in schools:

- Management and Prevention
- Awareness and Training
- Medication and Treatment

Many states are working in these three areas to alleviate and eliminate anaphylaxis incidence. This handbook highlights what a comprehensive policy approach could look like, based on data collected from the literature and actual state policies and implementation strategies. Within each category, a variety of policies and strategies can support school personnel, students, and parents as they work to eliminate exposure to allergens, train personnel in emergency response, and
expand access to appropriate medication. The subsequent chapter highlights how a selected state has approached the issue.

**Management and Prevention**

Typical elements of allergy management policies involve multidisciplinary teams, written protocols to lessen exposure to allergens and to follow in the event of an emergency, and identification and reporting systems. Preventing ingestion is the best way to ensure a student does not experience anaphylaxis. Prevention requires looking across multiple locations and areas of activity on a school campus where a student may come in contact with food. In addition to the cafeteria, high-risk areas and activities for consideration include food sharing, hidden ingredients, craft and science projects, bus transportation, field trips, fundraisers and bake sales, parties and holiday celebrations, and substitute teachers, who may be unaware of a student with a known allergy.

Management and prevention strategies identified in state comprehensive policies address the following:

- Directions for school districts to create written, comprehensive policies that at least cover emergency response, medication management, training, and prevention;
- State guidance, resources, and support for school districts to develop such policies;
- Development of state-level systems to identify students with allergies (i.e., health records) and processes for periodically updating the system;
- State systems for incident reporting; and
- State annual reports on anaphylaxis incidence, medication administered, and overall policy implementation.

**Awareness and Training**

Policies for awareness and training should include minimum training requirements for all school staff, and it should address the availability of training to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and understand the protocol for responding to an emergency, particularly if the school nurse is not always available. Staff who might be with a child during a reaction include the following: teachers, food service providers, bus drivers, recess or playground monitors, field trip chaperones, physical education teachers, and coaches.

Awareness and training strategies should address the following:

- Requirements that school districts create comprehensive awareness campaign to include clinical staff, school personnel, parents, community partners and students) and training efforts for appropriate school personnel;
• Guidance and resources on awareness and training regimes for local level/school districts; and
• Funding to support these training regimes.

Medication and Treatment

Many states have guidelines that dictate who can administer epinephrine. Self-administration by a student who is of a certain age and maturity is common. Some individual health care action plans allow for any authorized and trained personnel to administer epinephrine, while many states specify that school nurses are the only authorized personnel. Stocking of epinephrine onsite at schools has become a more common practice, both for use by students known to have allergies and those who aren’t known to have an allergy. This practice of supplying the drug to students experiencing their first reactions is known as a school-based prescription. Some epinephrine policies require that the drug be coded, tracked, and easily accessible. In a few cases, the drug is stored in multiple sites such as the cafeteria, classroom, and front office to ensure fast response. Many policies also require that epinephrine not be kept locked and that all staff members know where to find it.20

Medication and treatment strategies address the following:

• Students’ right to carry and self-administer medication;
• Good Samaritan laws that shield trained school personnel who administer epinephrine from civil liability in the event of unintentional injuries associated with medication administration;
• Provisions at a minimum for schools to maintain a general supply of epinephrine to administer to a child experiencing anaphylaxis with no known allergy; and
• Policies to allow trained school personnel to administer medication.
Anaphylaxis among school-age children is managed in North Carolina through several pieces of legislation. Statute 115C-375.2 (http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_115C.html) requires local boards of education to adopt policies authorizing students with an anaphylactic reaction to possess and self-administer medication on school property, at school-sponsored events, and in transit to and from school. 10A NCAC 13P.0509 (http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/rules/ems/011409/13p_0509.pdf) governs the credentialing of individuals to administer life-saving treatment to persons suffering an adverse reaction caused by anaphylaxis. A new law, Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injectors for Schools - S.L. 2014-100 (S 744), Sec. 8.23 (http://www.sog.unc.edu/node/31721), effective November 1, 2014, requires each principal to collaborate with other appropriate school personnel to develop an action plan for use of EpiPens in an emergency. Minimum components of the plan are specified in the new law and include calling emergency services and notifying affected students’ parents and physicians when the devices are used.

North Carolina meets 17 of 23 core policy standards and 3 of 12 extra-credit indicators. Below is a review of North Carolina policies, followed by suggested policy and implementation strategies.20

- Chapter 115C. Elementary and Secondary Education. SUBCHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS. Article 25A. Special Medical Needs of Students. (http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_115C.html)
  - § 115C-375.1. To provide some medical care to students.
  - § 115C-375.2. Possession and self-administration of asthma medication by students with asthma or students subject to anaphylactic reactions, or both.

- Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injectors for Schools - S.L. 2014-100 (S 744), Sec. 8.23 (http://www.sog.unc.edu/node/31721)


- 10A NCAC 13P.0509  Credentialing of Individuals to Administer Lifesaving Treatment to Persons Suffering an Adverse Reaction to Agents that Might Cause Anaphylaxis (http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/rules/ems/011409/13p_0509.pdf)
### North Carolina

#### Management and Prevention

| Directions for school districts to create written, comprehensive policies that at least cover emergency response, medication management, training, and prevention | Statute 115C-375.2 (2005) requires local boards of education to adopt policies authorizing students with an anaphylactic reaction to possess and self-administer medication on school property, at school-sponsored events, and in transit to and from school. District policy shall require that written authorization from the student's parent or guardian permitting the self-administration of medication, a written statement from the student's health practitioner verifying the student's health condition and prescription of medication, a written treatment plan for emergency protocol provided by the student's health practitioner, and a written statement by the parents indicating that school employees are immune from any liability for any injury resulting from the self-administration of medication. The student and parent must also provide back-up anaphylaxis medication to be kept on file in the school in the event of an emergency. |
| State guidance, resources, and support for school districts to develop such policies | No policy found |

The NC Department Public Health School Health Unit (NC DPH SHU) provides guidance and technical assistance around all clinical health issues for the NC Department of Public Instruction. The NC School Health Program Manual 6th Edition (2014) [http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/wch/lhd/manuals.htm](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/wch/lhd/manuals.htm)

Excerpt from [NC Emergency Guidelines for Schools](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/wch/lhd/manuals.htm) (p6): Some students in your school may have special emergency care needs due to health conditions, physical abilities or communication challenges. Include caring for these students’ special needs in emergency and disaster planning.

**HEALTH CONDITIONS:** Some students may have special conditions that put them at risk for life-threatening emergencies:

- seizures
- diabetes
- asthma or other breathing difficulties
- life-threatening or severe allergic reactions
- technology-dependent or medically fragile conditions

A school nurse or other school health professional, along with the student’s parent or legal guardian and physician, should develop individual emergency care plans for these students when they are enrolled. These emergency care plans...
plans should be made available to appropriate staff at all times.

| Development of state-level systems to identify students with allergies (i.e., health records) and processes for periodically updating the system | **130A-440. Health assessment required.**

(a) Every child in this State entering kindergarten in the public schools shall receive a health assessment. The health assessment shall be made no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry. No child shall attend kindergarten unless a health assessment transmittal form, developed pursuant to G.S. 130A-441, indicating that the child has received the health assessment required by this section, is presented to the school principal. The medical provider, or the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, must present a completed health assessment transmittal form to the principal of the school on or before the child's first day of attendance. If a health assessment transmittal form is not presented on or before the first day, the principal shall present a notice of deficiency to the parent, guardian, or responsible person. The parent, guardian, or responsible person shall have 30 calendar days from the first day of attendance to present the required health assessment transmittal form for the child. Upon termination of 30 calendar days, the principal shall not permit the child to attend the school until the required health assessment transmittal form has been presented.

(b) A health assessment shall include a medical history and physical examination with screening for vision and hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis. Vision screening shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 130A-440.1. The health assessment may also include dental screening and developmental screening for cognition, language, and motor function. The developmental screening of cognition and language abilities may be conducted in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.5(a). |


**Awareness and Training**

| Requirements that school districts create comprehensive awareness campaign to include clinical staff, school personnel, parents, community partners, and students and | **10A NCAC 13P .0509 CREDENTIALING OF INDIVIDUALS TO ADMINISTER LIFESAVING TREATMENT TO PERSONS SUFFERING AN ADVERSE REACTION TO AGENTS THAT MIGHT CAUSE ANAPHYLAXIS**

(a) To become credentialed by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to administer epinephrine to persons who suffer adverse reactions to agents that might cause anaphylaxis, a person shall meet the following:

1. Be 18 years of age or older; and
2. successfully complete an educational program taught by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina or |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Efforts for Appropriate School Personnel</th>
<th>Designee of the physician.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guidance and Resources on Awareness and Training Regimes for Local Level/School Districts</td>
<td>10A NCAC 13P .0509 CREDENTIALING OF INDIVIDUALS TO ADMINISTER LIFESAVING TREATMENT TO PERSONS SUFFERING AN ADVERSE REACTION TO AGENTS THAT MIGHT CAUSE ANAPHYLAXIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Successfully complete an educational program taught by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina or designee of the physician.</td>
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<td>North Carolina school districts can access an online database that gives them access to 151 licensed providers around the state authorized to provide training on medication administration by unlicensed personnel.</td>
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### Medication and Treatment

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<tr>
<th>Students’ Right to Carry and Self-Administer Medication</th>
<th>115C-375.2. Possession and self-administration of asthma medication by students with asthma or students subject to anaphylactic reactions, or both. (a) Local boards of education shall adopt a policy authorizing a student with asthma or a student subject to anaphylactic reactions, or both, to possess and self-administer asthma medication on school property during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, or while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events. As used in this section, “asthma medication” means a medicine prescribed for the treatment of asthma or anaphylactic reactions and includes a prescribed asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Good Samaritan Laws that Shield Trained School Personnel Who Administer Epinephrine from Civil Liability in the Event of Unintentional Injuries Associated with Medication Administration</td>
<td>Statute <strong>115C-375.1</strong> allows any teacher or school employee to administer any drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon written request of the parents. The statute provides for immunity from liability in civil damages for any authorized act or act of omission relating to it, unless the act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct or intentional wrongdoing. Any public school employee, authorized by the board of education or its designee to act under (i), (ii), or (iii) above, shall not be liable in civil damages for any authorized act or for any omission relating to that act unless the act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing. Any person, serving in a voluntary position at the request of or with the permission or consent of the board of education or its designee, who has been given the authority by the board of education or its designee to act</td>
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under (ii) above shall not be liable in civil damages for any authorized act or for any omission relating to the act unless the act amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

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<th>Provisions at a minimum for schools to maintain a general supply of epinephrine to administer to a child experiencing anaphylaxis with no known allergy</th>
<th>SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY. SECTION 8.23. (a) Article 25A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read: §115C-375.2A. School supply of epinephrine auto-injectors. (a) A local board of education shall provide for a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors on school property for use by trained school personnel to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an anaphylactic reaction during the school day and at school-sponsored events on school property. Each school shall store in a secure but unlocked and easily accessible location a minimum of two epinephrine auto-injectors. For purposes of this section, “school property” does not include transportation to or from school.</th>
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<td>Policies to allow trained school personnel to administer medication</td>
<td>Statute 115C-375.1 allows any teacher or school employee to administer any drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon written request of the parents. The statute provides for immunity from liability in civil damages for any authorized act or act of omission relating to it, unless the act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing. Details: 115C-375.1. To provide some medical care to students. It is within the scope of duty of teachers, including substitute teachers, teacher assistants, student teachers, or any other public school employee when authorized by the board of education or its designee, (i) to administer any drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon written request of the parents, (ii) to give emergency health care when reasonably apparent circumstances indicate that any delay would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the pupil, and (iii) to perform any other first aid or lifesaving techniques in which the employee has been trained in a program approved by the State Board of Education. No employee, however, shall be required to administer drugs or medication or attend life-saving techniques programs. At the commencement of each school year, but before the beginning of classes, and thereafter as circumstances require, the principal of each school shall determine which persons will participate in the medical care program.</td>
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Policy Discussion

Since the 2005–2006 school year, North Carolina has instituted a comprehensive approach to addressing school health by providing health services in every school district. North Carolina has demonstrated this commitment to a comprehensive approach through strategies such as N.C. Healthy Schools Coordinated School Health program, School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), and the provision of local funds.
directed toward school health services and personnel. This comprehensive approach is an ideal setting for instituting effective policies to manage anaphylaxis and prepare school personnel to respond to an emergency situation.

The intent of this handbook is to offer guidance on an inclusive policy approach and to highlight policies that could be adopted by a state. Oregon could look at the following options:

- state support for school districts to develop such policies;
- health assessment

State support for school districts to develop such policies

NC currently offers school district support through the state guidance for emergency situations in schools (http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/EMS/pdf/kids/guidelines.pdf), the NC School Health Program Manual (http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dph/wch/doc/lhd/North_Carolina_School_Health_Program_Manual%E2%80%93Sixth_Edition.pdf) and technical assistance provided by the NC DPH SHU around clinical health issues.

There is no legislation that requires state support for policy development at the district or individual school level. Current recommendations from the NC DPH SHU for the development of policy and procedure include use of the NASN Get Trained Program. Many states have developed state specific guidelines or handbooks for localities to develop and adopt comprehensive approaches to anaphylaxis management and treatment in school settings.

Inclusion of anaphylaxis in health assessment language

Section 130A-440 on health assessment describes the required assessments for enrollment into public school. However, there is no specific mention of anaphylaxis or history or food allergies in the current legislation.

Funding

Funding is an important policymaking factor, not only in North Carolina, but also in many other states. This handbook recognizes the importance, but funding decisions are made by states, there will be no discussion about it.

Implementation

While Statute 115C-375.2 (2005) requires local boards of education to adopt policies pertaining to anaphylaxis, the state’s role in providing guidance and support for development of said policies is less clear. The NC DPH SHU currently provides guidance and technical assistance around all clinical health issues to NC DPI. The School Health Program Manual outlines many of these clinical health issues. An excerpt from the NC Emergency Guidelines for Schools yielded guidance that “some students in your school may have special emergency care needs due to health conditions (anaphylaxis included), physical abilities or communication challenges. Include caring for these students’ special needs in emergency and disaster planning. School nurse or other school health professional, along with the student’s parent or
legal guardian and physician should develop individual emergency care plans for these students when they are enrolled. The development of emergency care plans is a vital component of overall management; however, consideration may be given to additional policy stipulating guidance the state can provide. In Connecticut, Statute Chapter 169, Section 10-212c requires the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, to develop and make available to each local and regional board of education guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease. The guidelines include, but are not limited to, education and training for school personnel on the management of students with life-threatening food allergies, training related to the administration of medication with a cartridge injector, the provision of food or dietary supplements, procedures for responding to life-threatening allergic reactions to food, a process for the development of individualized health care and food allergy action plans for every student with a life-threatening food allergy and protocols to prevent exposure to food allergens.

With respect to identification of students with anaphylaxis, the state may want to consider how this can be accomplished using existing health assessments for school enrollment. Currently North Carolina mandates a fairly comprehensive health assessment. Inclusion of anaphylaxis may be easily attained.

The development of policies and guidelines for schools on anaphylaxis involve complex issues and requires buy-in from multiple stakeholders. Policymakers without medical backgrounds might be reluctant to discuss technical issues around prevention and treatment of anaphylaxis. Yet by asking probing questions, non-experts can help clarify ambiguities and stimulate helpful answers to practical issues of policy and implementation. Education leaders can also convene state-level stakeholders. Throughout the process, it will be helpful to keep the goal in mind: appropriate policies and guidelines could save the life of a child experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Here are some suggestions for state board members:

1. Ask questions based on the worksheets (appendix A) in the NASBE’s anaphylaxis discussion guide.
2. Convene stakeholders:
   a. school district representative
   b. Department of Education leads
   c. parent advocacy representative
   d. state asthma/allergy foundation
   e. food service association
   f. school nurse association
   g. school physician association or state medical association
   h. parent teacher association/organization
   i. concerned parents and affected students
3. The state board of education can provide expert testimony at committee hearings on proposed legislation and/or disseminates evidenced-based and best-practice examples of comprehensive anaphylaxis policy.
Resources that Support Actions

It is a complex process to develop a comprehensive policy for anaphylaxis in schools with guidelines for districts and schools to follow. Many states are in the implementation and evaluation phases of their policies and have expertise to share with states that are still grappling with the issue. In addition, leading organizations are working in this area, providing not only medical knowledge and resources but also blueprints and toolkits for state policymakers. This section highlights some model states that experts have identified, and some organizations and support groups that would support state action.

Other Model States:21

Connecticut

Connecticut has comprehensive relevant policies in place. In the 2014 State Honor Roll of Asthma and Allergy Policies for Schools Report, which was developed by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Connecticut was one of the honoree states, meets twenty-one of 23 core policy standards and eight of 12 extra credit indicators.

The Connecticut State Department of Education and State Department of Public Health developed Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools (2006, revised in 2012) to help public school districts and nonpublic schools meet the requirements of state statutes in effectively managing the health and safety of students with life-threatening allergies. Just recently, Substitute House Bill No. 5521, Public Act No. 14-176 An Act Concerning the Storage and Administration of Epinephrine at Public Schools was passed in Connecticut. This bill requires schools to designate and train nonmedical staff to administer emergency epinephrine in cartridge injectors (“Epi-pens”) to students having allergic reactions who were not previously known to have serious allergies. It authorizes the emergency use of Epi-pens by nonmedical staff only if (1) the school nurse is not present or available and (2) certain conditions are met.

Mississippi

In 2008 the Mississippi Department of Education developed the publication Managing Food Allergies in Mississippi Schools to help Mississippi school districts and public schools develop effective preventive measures to control the incidence of exposure to food allergens and manage the health and safety needs of school-aged children with life-threatening allergic conditions.

In 2013 Mississippi acted decisively to replace a 2010 law that would have expired by passing the Mississippi Asthma and Anaphylaxis Child Safety Act. The act extends many of the asthma management provisions of the 2010 law and adds authority for schools to stock epinephrine auto-injectors to address emergencies. The result of a successful collaboration by asthma, school nurse, physician leaders, and legislative sponsors, the new law is stronger and more comprehensive.

Effective on July 1, 2014, the law requires school districts to allow students to possess and self-administer asthma and anaphylaxis medications; requires written instructions from a physician for asthma/anaphylaxis medication in schools; requires each child to have an asthma action plan on file at
school, updated annually, that includes information about medication dosage and delivery, instructions to the school if the student is coughing or wheezing, and a recommendation for whether the student should self-administer medication. Further, it provides for emergency protocols for asthma; requires schools to conduct an indoor air quality assessment, develop long-range maintenance plans that include specific indoor air quality components, and implement a wellness policy that reduces children’s exposure to asthma environmental irritants. Indoor environment requirements direct schools to implement an integrated pest management program and minimize the use of pesticides, provide comprehensive in-service training on asthma for teachers and other staff, minimize harmful cleaning products, and adopt construction containment procedures for pollutants that trigger asthma.

Guidelines can be found here:


In its 2014 report, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America honored Mississippi for meeting 18 of 23 core policy standards and 5 of 12 extra-credit indicators (http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?ID=5&sub=105&cont=776).

New Jersey

In 2007 the New Jersey state legislature amended relevant policies to require that the Department of Education (DOE)—in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), medical experts, school nurses, principals, teachers, and the food allergy community—establish and disseminate guidelines for school districts or nonpublic schools to develop policies for food allergy management in the school setting and for the emergency administration of epinephrine to students for anaphylaxis. According to the legislation, each board of education and chief school administrator of a nonpublic school is required to implement these guidelines, which have been developed in accordance with the statutory requirements. The Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools can be accessed here: http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/services/allergies.pdf

New Jersey has been selected for State Honor Roll since 2008 by Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. This year New Jersey met 20 of 23 core policy standards and 8 of 12 extra-credit indicators. (http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?ID=5&sub=105&cont=655).

Vermont


In 2013 Vermont passed a law allowing schools to stock epinephrine auto-injectors and health care professionals to prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors to a school and requiring health care professionals to
issue protocols for assessing a potentially life-threatening emergency, administering the medication, and
caring for individuals after administration. The bill also allows pharmacists to dispense the medication to
a school and includes a provision immunizing school personnel from liability related to administration

Vermont has also been selected for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America’s State Honor Roll
every year since 2008 (http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?ID=5&sub=105&cont=657).

**Washington**

The 2007 Washington state legislature appropriated $45,000 for the Office of Superintendent of Public
Instruction (OSPI) “to convene a workgroup to develop school food allergy guidelines and policies for
school district implementation in 2008–09.” The guidelines were completed and reported to the
legislature on March 31, 2008, and disseminated to all public and private school districts. The legislature
appropriated an additional $45,000 for OSPI, in consultation with the Washington State Department of
Health (DOH), “to develop policy guidelines for schools to prevent anaphylaxis and deal with medical
anaphylaxis workgroup met, reviewed, and amended the *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Life-
Threatening Food Allergies* (March 2009) to reflect the broader scope of care encompassing all students
with anaphylaxis. This document provides useful, comprehensive guidelines for schools, parents,
students, and their medical providers, and can be found here:

In 2013 Washington passed an Epinephrine Auto Injector Law (S.B. 5104, http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5104.PL.pdf) that allows schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors based on the number of students enrolled. The law also required the office of the superintendent of public instruction to review the state’s anaphylaxis policy guidelines and make recommendations to the education committees of the legislature regarding school policies on epinephrine auto-injectors in emergencies.

Washington has been selected for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America’s State Honor Roll

**National Organizations:**

**FARE**

Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) works on behalf of the 15 million Americans with food
allergies, including those at risk for life-threatening anaphylaxis. FARE is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit
organization that was formed in 2012 as the result of a merger between the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis
Network and the Food Allergy Initiative. FARE’s mission is to find a cure for food allergies and to keep
individuals with food allergies safe and included.

State Guidelines: http://www.foodallergy.org/laws-and-regulations/guidelines-for-schools
School Access to Epinephrine Map by State, which includes guidelines, policies, and pending bills by state: [http://www.foodallergy.org/advocacy/epinephrine/map](http://www.foodallergy.org/advocacy/epinephrine/map)

**AAFA**

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) is the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world. AAFA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma and allergic diseases through education, advocacy, and research.

AAFA provides practical information, community-based services and support to people through a network of regional chapters, support groups, and other local partners around the United States. AAFA develops health education, organizes state and national advocacy efforts, and funds research to find better treatments and cures. In addition, the mission of AAFA's website is to provide online access to AAFA's reliable, validated asthma and allergy information and tools to families, patients, parents, healthcare providers, policymakers, and others.

State Honor Roll Report 2014-see how your state scores in AAFA report: [http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?id=5&sub=105&cont=649](http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?id=5&sub=105&cont=649)

**AAAAI**

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) is a professional organization with more than 6,800 members in the United States, Canada, and 72 other countries. This membership includes allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, and allied health and related healthcare professionals—all with a special interest in the research and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases.

[http://www.aaaai.org/home.aspx](http://www.aaaai.org/home.aspx)

**AANMA**

Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) is the leading nonprofit family health organization; its mission is to eliminate unnecessary suffering and death due to asthma, allergies, and related conditions through education, advocacy, and outreach.

AANMA has a history of success implementing practical, family-friendly change. Their annual Asthma Awareness Day Capitol Hill highlights critical issues that need national attention. Most recently, AANMA led the campaign to ensure students’ rights to carry and self-administer asthma and anaphylaxis medications at school. [http://www.aanma.org/about-aanma/#sthash.gGeujV1W.dpuf](http://www.aanma.org/about-aanma/#sthash.gGeujV1W.dpuf)

**Training Resources:**

**American Red Cross Course in Anaphylaxis**

A preview of online classes is available here: https://www.shopstaywell.com/OA_HTML/ARCHHTML/previewkits.html

People can register by going to redcross.org/take-a-class, entering their zip code and selecting the “First Aid, CPR, AED for Lay Responder” search category.

National Association of School Nurses: Get Trained in Anaphylaxis

http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/FoodAllergyandAnaphylaxis/GetTrained

This is a program intended to be used as a tool and resource for scripted training of unlicensed school staff to administer epinephrine via an auto-injector during an anaphylactic emergency. The program recommendations and content are based on best practices. Each school nurse must exercise independent professional judgment when practicing and conducting training. Because nursing practice differs from state to state, each school nurse must ensure before presenting the training that it is consistent with applicable state laws and regulations, including those governing delegation, as well as applicable school district policies and procedures.

North Carolina Anaphylaxis Support Groups:

National Association of School Nurses, North Carolina

Contact an Epinephrine Resource School Nurse (ERSN) in North Carolina for professional development and/or technical assistance:

Beverly Twine, BSN, RN beverlytwine@pcs.k12.nc.us

Casey Spear, MSN, RN, NCSN casey.spear@dhhs.nc.gov

Cheryl Blake, MSN, RN, NCSN cblake@trinityschoolnc.org

Jennifer Garrett, BSN, RN, NCSN, CPN jgarrett@maconnc.org

Food Allergy Families of the Triad
Audience: Adults and Parents
Focus: Food allergies
Meeting Location: Varies throughout Triad Region
Meetings: Contact for information
Coordinator: Angela Fuller
Medical Advisor: Dr. Jason Caldwell, DO
Phone Number: 650-759-5336
Fax Number: n/a
E-mail: info@foodallergyfamiliesofthetriad.org
Website: www.foodallergyfamiliesofthetriad.org

**Parents of Allergic Kids**
Area Served: Charlotte, NC  
Audience: Parents  
Focus: Food Allergy  
Meeting Location: Ballantyne area of Charlotte  
Meetings: Contact for information  
Coordinator: Jodi Stokes  
Medical Advisor: Maeve O’Connor, M.D., FACAAI, FAAAAI  
Phone Number: (704)-845-9703  
Fax Number: N/A  
E-mail: info@pakcharlotte.org

**Anaphylaxis Community Experts (ACE)**
ACE from Allergy & Asthma Network, in partnership with the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American School Health Association, and the National Association of School Nurses work on providing technical assistance on anaphylaxis.

http://www.aanma.org/advocacy/usananphylaxis/north-carolina/

Mary Beth Glenn of Carolina Day School  
Asheville, NC

Saira Sheikh, MD  
Chapel Hill, NC

Jennifer Hall and Karla Hampton of Johnston County School District  
Clayton, NC

Sanjay Khiani, MD, MBA, of Family Allergy, Asthma & Sinus Care  
Charlotte, NC

Maeve O’Connor, MD of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Relief of Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC

Cheryl Blake, BS, MS of Trinity School of Durham  
Durham, NC

Karen Lowe-Bumper, RN  
Greensboro, NC

Joseph Inglefield, III, MD and Sonal Lane of Hickory Allergy and Asthma Clinic  
Hickory, NC
Jennifer Lindsay, RN, BSN, NCSN of Oakwood Elementary
Hickory, NC

Beth Kennedy of Westchester Country Day School
High Point, NC

Elizabeth Cockrell
Nashville, NC

Linda Rogers
Raleigh, NC
Appendices

Appendix A: State Worksheets

Appendix B: Sample Letter for Classmates and Parents

Appendix C: Sample Letter for Substitute Teachers, Volunteers, etc.

Appendix D: Sample Outline of Training Program for Unlicensed School Personnel to Administer Epinephrine by Auto Injector in Life-Threatening Allergic Conditions

Appendix E: Sample Development of a Partnership between the Trained Unlicensed School Personnel and the Student with an Allergic Reaction

Appendix F: Sample Epinephrine Competency Skill Checklist

Appendix G: Sample Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan

Appendix H: Sample Food Allergy Assessment Form
Appendix A: State Worksheets

Worksheet 1: Policy Development Planning

There are many policy elements that must come together to ensure students are protected from the consequences of a severe allergic reaction—simply ensuring that a stock of epinephrine is available is necessary but not nearly sufficient. Following are some key issues to consider when developing a policy development plan.

### Questions to Ask When Considering Policy Action

| Policy Development Planning | • Who needs to be at the table to discuss this issue? For example:  
Department of education  
Department of health  
State asthma/allergy foundation  
Food service association  
School nurse association  
School physician association or state medical association  
Parent teacher association/organization  
Concerned parents and affected students  
Others?  
  • What is the main goal of this process? To raise public awareness? To develop, revise, improve guidelines for schools? To advocate for new or revised laws that address the use of medication at schools? Or is this in response to a legislative mandate? If this is in response to a mandate, what is the particular focus?  
  • What do state and local data say about how frequently anaphylaxis occurs? How well have the schools responded to emergencies?  
  • What do the experts recommend?  
  • What are the major implementation challenges? |
Worksheet 2: Management Strategies

A comprehensive approach to managing anaphylaxis requires strategies that work together—at the state and the school levels—to bring the system to the desired end. Boards will need to consider every aspect of the issue: acquisition and storage of stand-by epinephrine; handling of students’ medications; prevention of exposure to allergens by students known to have severe allergies; staff training needs; protocols for emergency response at school and away from school; and reporting and evaluation of incidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Has Authority Over This Part of the System?</th>
<th>Questions to Ask When Considering Policy Action</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management Strategies</td>
<td>• Does the state require that school districts or schools develop their own policies and protocols?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Does the state provide model policies and guidance on best practices for managing life-threatening allergies in school?</td>
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<td>• Is the use of an individualized health care plan common place? Is additional school staff training necessary?</td>
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<td>• Is a multi-disciplinary management team approach being used in schools to address the needs of students who have a life-threatening allergy? If not, should this be a requirement?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Worksheet 3: Awareness planning and School Staff Training

Training all school staff to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and be able to respond appropriately is a key aspect of a comprehensive plan.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Has Authority Over This Part of the System?</th>
<th>Questions to Ask When Considering Policy Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness Planning and School Staff Training</td>
<td>• Are there existing guidelines or requirements for districts or individual schools about training staff to recognize the signs of anaphylaxis and to appropriately respond in an emergency?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Is there a need for separate trainings for school transportation staff? School foodservice workers? Athletic program coaches? Or do they fall under the same guidelines as all school staff? Is contracted services staff included?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are there training programs in the state that could be replicated or expanded statewide?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Is there an opportunity to use innovative technology to disseminate trainings (e.g., web-based technology, streaming videos, or online courses)?*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Several organizations offer online training on anaphylaxis and epinephrine auto-injection, including the National Association of School Nurses (www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/FoodAllergyandAnaphylaxis/GetTrained) and the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org/courses/index.jsp?_requestid=506892).
Worksheet 4: School Environment Modification

Changes to school environments may be necessary to ensure those with severe allergies avoid consuming allergens or coming into direct skin contact with allergens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Has Authority Over This Part of the System?</th>
<th>Questions to Ask When Considering Policy Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Environment Modification</td>
<td>• Are there guidelines in place for non-food fundraisers, celebrations, and other activities that could involve food?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are there guidelines in place for addressing the use of food items in school projects, crafts, science classes?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are there sample letters to families available that teachers can use to explain why and how the school is managing exposure to allergens?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are there guidelines in place to assure regular and thorough cleaning of surfaces students come into contact with, and for minimizing cross-contamination of allergens?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Worksheet 5: Medication and Treatment

Giving schools authority to stock epinephrine for use in emergencies is a vital state policy that can save the lives of students having a severe allergic reaction. Other important policies include how and where epinephrine should be stored, who is authorized to administer medications, and protocols for handling emergencies off site (such as during field trips and sporting events).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Has Authority Over This Part of the System?</th>
<th>Questions to Ask When Considering Policy Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medication and Treatment</td>
<td>• What are the existing laws that govern use of epinephrine in school settings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Who in a school is authorized to administer medication? If it is only the school nurse, what happens when they are not present in an emergency? Who may administer epinephrine during off site activities?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Are there current laws about the storage of epinephrine? Can the epinephrine be easily accessed in an emergency?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Do schools have the ability to stock epinephrine for use in an emergency situation with a student who has had no previous allergy (known as a “school prescription”)?</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• What are the state laws that govern the liability of school staff who administer epinephrine?</td>
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<td>• Should the state board (or the board in conjunction with other education, health, and parent groups) advocate for legislative action regarding epinephrine access?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Who has authority over administration of medications at schools (i.e., the department of education or department of health)?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Have any nurse “train the trainer” programs been effective in the state? Is that a consideration?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Worksheet 6: Evaluation and Accountability

Evaluation and review of new policies and programs are necessary to ensure these measures are having their intended effects in the most effective and efficient way possible. At the same time, evaluations can identify any unintended negative consequences and provide suggestions for needed adjustments.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Who Has Authority Over This Part of the System?</th>
<th>Questions to Ask When Considering Policy Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and Accountability</td>
<td>• How will the state board measure success of the policy?</td>
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<td>• If there are mandates for stocking epinephrine included in the policy (rather than just guidelines), what will the accountability mechanism be (e.g., through the school or district accreditation process)?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What are the requirements for schools or districts to report anaphylaxis emergencies and staff responses?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Who or what entity will conduct an evaluation and when would this occur?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Will the evaluation consider the costs of implementation?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B: Sample Letter for Classmates and Parents

- If parent agrees, as food allergies are a confidential health condition, a letter should be sent home with classmates to inform families of the school’s peanut/nut or other food allergy policy.
- A letter should be written on school stationery by school nurse, teacher and/or principal. Parents may help in composing the letter, but it must come from the school.
- The school nurse, teacher(s) and/or principal should sign the letter.
- Include a cut off portion for parents of classmates to return to the school so that the staff is aware that the parents of classmates have received the information.

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1 Adopted from Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education, 2002

National Association of State Boards of Education
Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you that a student in your child’s classroom has a severe peanut/nut allergy. Strict avoidance of peanut/nut products is the only way to prevent a life threatening allergic reaction. We are asking your assistance in providing the student with a safe learning environment.

If exposed to peanuts/nuts the student may develop a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. The greatest potential for exposure at school is to peanut products and nut products. To reduce the risk of exposure, the classroom will be peanut/nut free. Please do not send any peanut or nut containing products for your child to eat during snack in the classroom. Any exposure to peanuts or nuts through contact or ingestion can cause a severe reaction. If your child has eaten peanut or nut prior to coming to school, please be sure your child’s hands have been thoroughly washed prior to entering the school.

Since lunch is eaten in the cafeteria, your child may bring peanut butter, peanut or nut products for lunch. In the cafeteria there will be a designated peanut-free table where any classmate without peanut or nut products can sit. If your child sits at this table with a peanut or nut product, s/he will be asked to move to another table. This plan will help to maintain safety in the classroom while allowing non allergic classmates to enjoy peanut/nut products in a controlled environment. Following lunch, the children will wash their hands prior to going to recess (or returning to the class.) The tables will be cleaned with soap, water and paper towels after each lunch.

We appreciate your support of these procedures. Please complete and return this form so that we are certain that every family has received this information. If you have any questions, please contact me.

X________________________
Signature of Principal/Teacher/Nurse

I have read and understand the peanut/nut free classroom procedures. I agree to do my part in keeping the classroom peanut and nut free.

Child’s Name:

Parent’s Signature:

Date:
Appendix C: Sample Letter for Substitute Teachers, Volunteers, etc.  

Substitute teachers are an important link in the school staff. They must be included in the information chain regarding safety measures designed to protect the students with food allergies they supervise.

Substitute teachers must receive written information that the students with food allergies are in the class, information about peanut-free tables or other special modifications, and the resources available if a student has an allergic reaction. Here is a sample letter which teachers can leave with their lesson plans for the substitute:

Dear Substitute Teacher,

The students listed below in this class have severe life-threatening food allergies. Please maintain the food allergy avoidance strategies that we have developed to protect these students.

Should a student ingest, touch or inhale the substance to which they are allergic, (the allergen), a severe reaction (anaphylaxis) may follow requiring the administration of epinephrine (Epi-pen*).

The Allergy Action Plan, which states who has been trained to administer epinephrine, is located_________________________________________________________________.

Epinephrine is a life-preserving medication and should be given in the first minutes of a reaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Allergies</th>
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Please treat this information confidentially to protect the privacy of the students. Your cooperation is essential to ensure their safety. Should you have any question please contact the school nurse________________, or the principal______________________________.

________________________________________________________

Classroom teacher

2 Adopted from Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education, 2002
Appendix D: Sample Outline of Training Program for Unlicensed School Personnel to Administer Epinephrine by Auto Injector in Life-Threatening Allergic Conditions

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Family and Community Health School Health Unit

OUTLINE OF TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNLICENSED SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO ADMINISTER EPINEPHRINE BY AUTOINJECTOR IN LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS

PURPOSE: To provide unlicensed school personnel with basic knowledge and skills to administer epinephrine by auto-injector in a life-threatening situation.

INSTRUCTOR: School Nurse or Physician

TIME: Two hours

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the training the participants will demonstrate the following competencies:

- identify common causes of allergic emergencies;
- accurately recognize general and student-specific warning signs of allergic emergency;
- accurately identify student for whom the epinephrine is prescribed;
- accurately read and interpret the emergency medication administration plan;
- correctly follow directions on the medication administration plan;
- accurately read the epinephrine label and follow directions from the label;
- administer epinephrine by auto-injector;
- safely handle epinephrine in an auto-injector;
- accurately describe the school’s plan for responding to emergencies;
- access resources appropriately, including emergency medical services, school nurse, parents and physician.

CONTENT: School nurse and parents, if possible, shall meet with the selected unlicensed school personnel to explain:

a) the student’s allergy;
b) past reactions and associated symptoms; and
c) measures taken to reduce exposure to the allergens in the school setting and off-campus activities.

(See Part II for introduction to the student.)

Describe common causes of allergic emergencies. Explain use of epinephrine.

3 Adopted from Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education, 2002

National Association of State Boards of Education
How it works: Epinephrine is the treatment of choice for allergic emergencies because it quickly constricts blood vessels, relaxes smooth muscles in the lungs to improve breathing, stimulates the heartbeat, and works to reverse hives and swelling around the face and lips.

Effects of the injection begin to wear off after 10 to 20 minutes; therefore immediate activation of the emergency medical system (911 or, if not available, the local community’s emergency medical response system) is essential.

How to handle and store epinephrine: The auto-injector is quite durable, but may be damaged if mishandled. It is stable at room temperature until the marked expiration date. It should not be refrigerated, frozen or exposed to extreme heat or sunlight; light and heat cause it to oxidize and go bad, turning brown. Before using, make sure the solution is clear and colorless; if brown, replace immediately.

NOTE: Accidental injection into the hands or feet may result in loss of blood flow to the affected area and will require immediate treatment in the Emergency Room.

After use, place auto-injector in an impermeable container, if available, and give to Emergency Medical personnel to take to the Emergency Room. Inform them of the time of injection.

HOW TO ADMINISTER:

Check to identify:

- right student (e.g., use photo on student’s emergency plan)
- right medication*
- right dose*
- right route right time (based on student’s symptoms, e.g., hives spreading over the body, wheezing, difficulty swallowing or breathing, swelling in face or neck, tingling/swelling of tongue, vomiting, signs of shock such as extreme paleness/gray color, clammy skin, loss of consciousness or any other child specific known symptoms).

Practice with the specific auto-injector trainer that corresponds with the auto-injector provided by the specific student. Refer to specific manufacturer’s instructions.

CAUTION: Accidental injection into the hands or feet may result in loss of blood flow to the affected area. Seek treatment immediately in the nearest Emergency Room.

Review emergency plan of school

Emergency telephone numbers and where posted (EMS, student’s parent/guardian, student’s physician); emphasize the need to activate immediately in order for student to be further evaluated in an Emergency Room. Names of CPR-certified personnel and where located.
Plan for field trips: Trained personnel must take the epinephrine auto-injector on all field trips in which the student is participating. Make sure phone is close by if needed. Keep epinephrine at room temperature.

**Question/answer session.**

School nurse shall complete the competency skill check list for each person trained.
Appendix E: Sample Development of a Partnership between the Trained Unlicensed School Personnel and the Student with an Allergic Reaction

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Family and Community Health School Health Unit

DEVELOPMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TRAINED UNLICENSED SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND THE STUDENT WITH AN ALLERGIC CONDITION

PURPOSE: To provide the student and unlicensed trained school personnel with an opportunity to develop a relationship prior to an emergency situation and to encourage the student to begin to learn responsibility for managing his/her own health care. This process will continue to engage the parent and student as working partners in the health team.

TIME: One hour.

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the introductory session and appropriate to his/her developmental level, the student will:

1. Have met the trained school personnel and they will know how to identify each other; have an opportunity to identify to the unlicensed school personnel what allergens precipitate a reaction and the symptoms experienced and understand.
   a) the support system available to him/her.
   b) the responsibility for alerting the teacher/classmates of symptoms.
   c) understand the importance of using Medi-Alert bracelets.
   d) and explore possibilities for developing a "buddy system" within his/her class.

CONTENT: Collaborating with the parent and student, as appropriate, the school nurses should:

- facilitate the comfort level of the parent and student, recognizing the importance of such individual factors as
  a) whether the family has understood and accepted the student’s condition,
  b) age of the student,
  c) level of anxiety/fear, and
  d) relationship with the school nurse and trained unlicensed personnel;
- review the location of the auto-injectors and back-up supplies;
- identify and discuss the symptoms; (Based on the age of the student, a picture or word showing the foods or insects precipitating an allergic reaction may be given to the student to wear so that a visual connection may be made.)

4 Adopted from Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education, 2002
• explore the possibility of teaching the student’s classmates and teacher about allergic responses and developing a "buddy system" for responding to an emergency.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Training:

Provide a periodic refresher course, at a minimum of twice a year, for any unlicensed staff trained to administer epinephrine by auto-injector in a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Implement a periodic anaphylaxis drill similar to a fire drill as part of the periodic refresher course. (During the anaphylaxis drill a student may be identified as theoretically having a life-threatening allergic reaction and staff will be expected to take the appropriate actions, e.g., locating the epinephrine, describing how they would give it in an emergency, describing whom they would notify, including the number for the emergency response team, etc.)

Storage:

If the epinephrine auto-injector is to be useful in the time of an emergency, it needs to be stored in a clearly visible location and have the student’s name on it or it may be carried by the student if appropriate. The location of the auto-injector and back-up should be written in the health care plan. All staff trained in its use should know exactly where it is located.

The location should be determined based on the anticipated needs of the student. A plan must be in place stating who obtains it while the trained staff member stays with the student.

Key staff members such as the teacher, principal, cafeteria staff, etc., should know where the auto-injector is stored even if they are not trained to administer it.

Emergency Response Preparation:

Suggested numbers of school staff trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) include a minimum of 3 per school building; for those buildings with more than 300 students, there should be at least one additional CPR-trained staff member per 100 students.

Names of CPR-trained staff members should be available to all faculty in the school.

Inform local emergency medical respondents of the possible need for their rapid response to students at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions. Provide EMS personnel with the address and the location of school entrances. Identify a school staff member to be responsible for meeting EMS at entrance and leading them to the student with the reaction.

Clearly mark telephones with emergency response phone numbers as well as how to access an outside line. (e.g. 9-911)

Training Materials:
The School Food Allergy Program includes a video, training manual, poster, etc. (The cost is $75.00 plus $9.50 shipping and handling.) It may be ordered from The Food Allergy Network, 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 107, Fairfax, VA 22030 (1-800-929-4040). Other booklets and videos about food allergies ("Alexander: The Elephant Who Couldn’t Eat Nuts" and "It Only Takes One Bite") are available.

Epi-Pen Trainers, Epi-Pen Brochures are available at no cost from:

Dey Laboratories

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive

Napa, CA 94558

(1-800-755-5560) or (1-800-869-9005)

11/2001 MDPH School Health Unit
Appendix F: Sample Epinephrine Competency Skill Checklist

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Family and Community Health School Health Unit

EPINEPHRINE COMPETENCY SKILL CHECK LIST

Name and Title of Staff Person: ________________________________

The following competencies have been demonstrated by staff person:

States the responsibilities of the school nurse for training and supervision

Identifies common causes of allergic emergencies

Describes general and student-specific warning signs of allergic emergency

Demonstrates how to activate the school’s plan for responding to emergencies

Identifies student for whom the epinephrine is prescribed

Interprets accurately the emergency medication administration plan

Follows the directions on the medication administration plan

Reads the label on the epinephrine auto-injector, assuring the correct dosage

Demonstrates safe handling of epinephrine auto-injector

Demonstrates the correct procedure for giving epinephrine by auto-injector

Describes how to access emergency medical services, school nurse, student’s parents (or other persons), student’s physician

Comments:

Signatures: Supervised by ________________________________ RN

Staff Person ________________________________

Date: ______________

5 Adopted from Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education, 2002
Appendix G: Sample Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan

**FARE**

**FOOD ALLERGY & ANAPHYLAXIS EMERGENCY CARE PLAN**

Name:________________________________________ DOB:________________________

Allergy to:______________________________________________________________

Weight:_________________ lbs. Asthma: [ ] Yes (higher risk for a severe reaction) [ ] No

NOTE: Do not depend on antihistamines or inhalers (bronchodilators) to treat a severe reaction. USE EPINEPHRINE.

Extremely reactive to the following foods: _____________________________________________

THEREFORE:

[ ] If checked, give epinephrine immediately for ANY symptoms if the allergen was likely eaten.

[ ] If checked, give epinephrine immediately if the allergen was definitely eaten, even if no symptoms are noted.

### FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

**SEVERE SYMPTOMS**

**LUNG**
Short of breath, wheezing, repetitive cough

**HEART**
Pale, blue, faint, weak pulse, dizzy

**THROAT**
Tight, hoarse, trouble breathing/swallowing

**MOUTH**
Significant swelling of the tongue and/or lips

**SKIN**
Many hives over body, widespread redness

**GUT**
Repetitive vomiting, severe diarrhea

**OTHER**
Feeling something bad is about to happen, anxiety, confusion

**FOR MILD SYMPTOMS FROM MORE THAN ONE SYSTEM AREA, GIVE EPINEPHRINE.**

**MILD SYMPTOMS**

**NOSE**
Itchy/runny nose, sneezing

**MOUTH**
Itchy mouth

**SKIN**
A few hives, mild itch

**GUT**
Mild nausea/ discomfort

### FOR MILD SYMPTOMS FROM A SINGLE SYSTEM AREA, FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW:

1. Antihistamines may be given, if ordered by a healthcare provider.
2. Stay with the person; alert emergency contacts.
3. Watch closely for changes. If symptoms worsen, give epinephrine.

### MEDICATIONS/DOSES

**Epinephrine Brand:**

**Epinephrine Dose:** 1.0.15 mg IM 1.0.3 mg IM

**Antihistamine Brand or Generic:**

**Antihistamine Dose:**

**Other (e.g., Inhaler/bronchodilator if wheezing):**

---

PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE DATE PHYSICIAN/HIP AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE DATE

FORM PROVIDED COURTESY OF FOOD ALLERGY RESEARCH & EDUCATION (FARE) (WWW.FOODALLERGY.ORG) 5/2014

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40 National Association of State Boards of Education
**FARE**

**FOOD ALLERGY & ANAPHYLAXIS EMERGENCY CARE PLAN**

**EPIPEN® (EPINEPHRINE) AUTO-INJECTOR DIRECTIONS**
1. Remove the EpiPen Auto-Injector from the plastic carrying case.
2. Pull off the blue safety release cap.
3. Swing and firmly push orange tip against mid-outter thigh.
4. Hold for approximately 10 seconds.
5. Remove and massage the area for 10 seconds.

**AUVI-Q™ (EPINEPHRINE INJECTION, USP) DIRECTIONS**
1. Remove the outer case of Auvi-Q. This will automatically activate the voice instructions.
2. Pull off red safety guard.
3. Place black end against mid-outter thigh.
4. Press firmly and hold for 5 seconds.
5. Remove from thigh.

**ADRENACLICK®/ADRENACLICK® GENERIC DIRECTIONS**
1. Remove the outer case.
2. Remove grey caps labeled “1” and “2”.
3. Place red rounded tip against mid-outter thigh.
4. Press down hard until needle penetrates.
5. Hold for 10 seconds. Remove from thigh.

**OTHER DIRECTIONS/INFORMATION** (may self-carry epinephrine, may self-administer epinephrine, etc.):

Treat the person before calling emergency contacts. The first signs of a reaction can be mild, but symptoms can get worse quickly.

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS — CALL 911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rescue Squad</th>
<th>Doctor</th>
<th>Parent/Guardian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Relationship</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Name/Relationship</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent/Guardian Authorization Signature: __________________________
Date: __________________________

Form provided courtesy of Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) (www.foodallergy.org) 5/2014
Appendix H: Sample Food Allergy Assessment Form

Food Allergy Assessment Form

Student Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ___________ Date: ___________

Parent/Guardian: _________________________ Phone: ___________ Cell/work: ___________

Health Care Provider (name) treating food allergy: _________________________ Phone: ___________

Do you think your child’s food allergy may be life-threatening? □ No □ Yes
(If YES, please see the school nurse as soon as possible).

Did your student’s health care provider tell you the food allergy may be life-threatening? □ No □ Yes
(If YES, please see the school nurse as soon as possible.)

History and Current Status

Check the foods that have caused an allergic reaction:

☑ Peanuts ☐ Fish/shellfish ☐ Eggs
☐ Peanut or nut butter ☐ Soy products ☐ Milk
☐ Peanut or nut oils ☐ Tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, pecans, etc.)

Please list any others: ___________________________

How many times has your student had a reaction? □ Never □ Once □ More than once, explain: _______

When was the last reaction? _______________________

Are the food allergy reactions: □ staying the same □ getting worse □ getting better

Triggers and Symptoms

What has to happen for your student to react to the problem food(s)? (Check all that apply)

☑ Eating foods ☐ Touching foods ☐ Smelling foods ☐ Other, please explain: __________________________

What are the signs and symptoms of your student’s allergic reaction? (Be specific; include things the student might say.)

________________________________________________________

How quickly do the signs and symptoms appear after exposure to the food(s)?

_____ Seconds _____ Minutes _____ Hours _____ Days

Treatment

Has your student ever needed treatment at a clinic or the hospital for an allergic reaction?
□ No □ Yes, explain: __________________________

Does your student understand how to avoid foods that cause allergic reactions? □ Yes □ No

What treatment or medication has your health care provider recommended for use in an allergic reaction?

__________________________________________________________________________

Have you used the treatment? □ No □ Yes

Adapted with permission from ESD 171 SNC Guidelines for Anaphylaxis 36 March 2009

Adopted from Guidelines for Care of Students with Anaphylaxis, Washington Department of Education, 2009
Does your student know how to use the treatment?  □ No □ Yes
Please describe any side effects or problems your child had in using the suggested treatment: ______________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

If you intend for your child to eat school provided meals, have you filled out a diet order form for school?
□ Yes.
□ No, I need to get the form, have it completed by our health care provider, and return it to school.

If medication is to be available at school, have you filled out a medication form for school?
□ Yes.
□ No, I need to get the form, have it completed by our health care provider, and return it to school.

If medication is needed at school, have you brought the medication/treatment supplies to school?
□ Yes.
□ No, I need to get the medication/treatment and bring it to school.

What do you want us to do at school to help your student avoid problem foods?
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

I give consent to share, with the classroom, that my child has a life-threatening food allergy.
□ Yes.
□ No.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________________
Reviewed by R.N.: ____________________________ Date: __________________

Adapted with permission from ESD 171 SNC Program

Guidelines for Anaphylaxis

March 2009
Endnotes


7 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, and American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters, Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 115 (2005): S483–523.


16 McIntyre et al., “Administration of Epinephrine.”
17 Sicherer et al., “The U.S. Peanut and Tree Nut Allergy Registry.”


21 Model states were selected based on information collected from Food Allergy Research and Education and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.