

**McKinney Independent School District  
School Health Services**

**Managing Students with Life Threatening Allergies  
MISD Policy (Includes Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for  
Anaphylaxis) and Unassigned Epinephrine Auto-injectors**

The McKinney Independent School District (MISD) is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all students. No student shall, on the basis of a disability, be denied the opportunity to participate in any program or service the District offers to all students. When a student who presents with any health care need enrolls in MISD's schools, an appropriate health care plan is developed to serve the student, in addition to any other programs or plans that may also be developed to ensure the student receives a free appropriate education. The following information sets out the procedures that MISD follows in managing students with Life Threatening Allergies (LTA) in the schools. The information also follows Senate Bill 27 (2011, 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session) which amended Chapter 38 of the Texas Education Code by adding Section 38.0151 and the guidelines developed by the state Commissioner of Health in consultation with the Ad Hoc Committee in the spring of 2012. It was further updated in 2018 to implement Senate Bill (SB) 66 (84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015), and SB 579, 85th Legislature (Regular Session, 2017). The new laws require the adoption of rules for the maintenance, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors in school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and private schools who voluntarily adopt epinephrine auto-injector policies. The new law established the Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee tasked with advising the Texas Department of State Health Services amending Texas Administrative Code Title 25 §§37.601-37.611. In addition Texas Education Code Sections 38.208-38.215 were created.

In accordance with the Texas Education Code Chapter 25, Section 25.0022, the District requests annual disclosure of all life threatening allergies, includes food by the parent/guardian on the *Student Health History* form. This form will be available in all enrollment packets both paper and electronic.

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Anaphylaxis** is defined as “a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death” (Simons, 2008). Anaphylaxis includes a wide range of symptoms that can occur in many combinations and is highly unpredictable. The most dangerous symptoms include breathing difficulties and a drop in blood pressure or shock. Common examples of potentially life threatening allergies are those to foods and stinging insects. Life-threatening allergic reactions may also occur to medications or latex rubber and in association with exercise. Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions are important measures to prevent serious health consequences (U. S. Food and Drug Administration, 2008). Children spend up to 50 percent of their

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waking hours in school, and foods containing allergens are commonly found in schools. Thus, the likelihood of allergic reactions occurring in schools is high (Sheetz, 2004). The foundation for the management of a student with LTA's in the MISD is the student's Individual Health Plan (IHP)/Health Condition Information Sheet (HCIS) that is developed in collaboration with the student, parent, student's physician, school nurse and other MISD personnel, as appropriate. The IHP/HCIS includes the routine treatment and emergency care that will be provided for the student.

Education is key in identifying and supporting students with life-threatening allergies in the school setting. MISD provides training for staff to ensure those employees who work with the student understand the student's condition and how to provide routine treatment as well as emergency procedures.

### **TRAINING**

A training program has been developed to train staff consistent with the concepts set forth in relevant publications, including, the *Texas Guide to School Health Programs*, published by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), *Voluntary Guidelines for managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early care and Education Programs* published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network.

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2. Comprehensive Training will be provided at least annually to the staff that has regular contact with the student with an LTA. LTA training provides the participants with information about the most common

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There are no medical conditions which absolutely prohibit the use of epinephrine when anaphylaxis occurs (Boyce, 2010).

**If an emergency arises for a student with an LTA while the primary campus nurse is not present, the following steps will occur:**

**Call a campus staff member who has been trained to provide immediate emergency interventions as described in the or unassigned epinephrine auto-injectors procedures. If the student appears to be in a life-threatening situation, call 911.  
Call the parents.  
Notify the campus administrator.**

**Appropriate staff, as designated by the campus nurse, shall be given information on the /HCIS.**

**Identification of Students With Allergy At-Risk for Anaphylaxis**

Due to an increase in prevalence of allergies and the potential for an allergic reaction to become more life-threatening, information needs to be shared with the school in order to promote safety for children with allergies that are at-risk for anaphylaxis. It is important for parents to provide accurate and current health information when requested, in order to assist schools in obtaining information necessary to care for the student.

Texas Education Code Chapter 25, Section 25.0022 states that upon enrollment of a child in a (n)-3 ( )8(n)-3 ( )8<

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following pages. This document is accessible on the McKinney ISD website and in all campus clinics.

**Unassigned Epinephrine Auto-injectors**

- 1) According to Texas Administrative Code Title 25 §§37.603 the school day

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- 11) Used epinephrine auto-injectors will be given to the emergency medical services personnel responding and then if instructed by emergency medical services personnel will be disposed of in a SHARPS receptacle.
- 12) Expired epinephrine auto-injectors will be disposed of by the campus nurse in a SHARPS receptacle.
- 13) Epinephrine auto-injectors shall be replaced by the Director of Health Services.
- 14) A person who in good faith takes, or fails to take, any action under this subchapter or Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Subchapter E is immune from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action resulting from that action or failure to act in accordance with the Texas Education Code, §38.215.