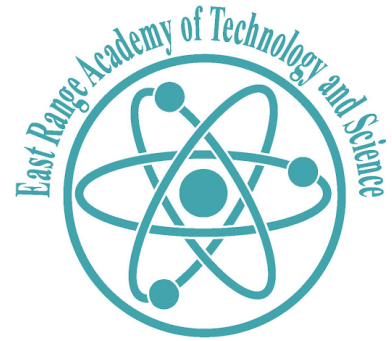


Board Policy  
512

**Allergies**



*Adopted: February 2021*

**I. PURPOSE**

East Range Academy of Technology and Science may serve students or employ adult staff or volunteers with allergies that can interfere with their education, employment or volunteer experience and some of these may be life threatening. These allergies may include tree nut or peanut allergies, bee sting allergies, other food allergies, chemical sensitivities, or environmental allergies and asthma. The purpose of this policy is to establish East Range Academy's procedures with regard to allergic reactions.

**II. POLICY STATEMENT**

ERATS recognizes that it serves students with complex health needs, and that students with life-threatening allergies require reasonable accommodations necessary to ensure access to available education and education-related benefits. ERATS cannot guarantee to provide an allergen-free environment for all students with life-threatening allergies but will take meaningful steps to reduce the discomfort (and sometimes deadly danger) to some students who suffer from very specific allergic reactions.

**III. BOARD POLICY**

- A. East Range Academy takes reasonable and necessary precautions when advised of an allergy or other medical issue that may impact a student's education and health or the health of an employee. A student who has a medical or mental health diagnosis is entitled to a Section 504 Plan to provide program changes that may be necessary to prevent discrimination. An employee or other adult volunteer may have reasonable accommodations as determined through dialogue with their supervisor or the Director.
- B. East Range Academy is "peanut-aware," not peanut free. A student with a peanut allergy along with the student's Section 504 team, or the employee with an allergy and her/his supervisor, will create an individual 504 or accommodation plan respectively for each person. East Range Academy follows best practice recommendations from Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network's (FAAN) School Food Allergy Program. The School Food Allergy Program has been endorsed and/or supported by the Anaphylaxis Committee of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Executive Committee of the Section on Allergy and Immunology of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

#### **IV. PROCEDURES TO ACCOMPANY ALLERGY POLICY**

To implement the Allergy Policy, the following procedures will be implemented by administration when applicable to the individual situation or as required by law:

##### **A. School Staff**

1. Complete annual training of school staff about allergies, anaphylaxis reactions and EpiPen® administration (as required by Minn. Stat. §§121A.22 and 121A.2205 and as required by an individual's 504 Plan).
2. Work with the parent/guardian and others on the Section 504 team as well as a physician or other medical/mental health providers to develop a plan to accommodate the student's needs.

##### **B. Licensed School Nurse**

1. Gather information and develop an Emergency Care Plan or Health Plan for inclusion in a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or develop a 504 Plan for any student not receiving special education services. *A student with an IEP should not have a separate 504 Plan or Health Plan in most cases. Exceptions should be reviewed with the Special Education Director. A student with a 504 Plan should not have a Health Plan – any health needs should be covered in a 504 Plan.*
2. Work with school staff, parents and medical/mental health providers to identify any necessary program changes.
3. Follow East Range Academy policy/procedures for medication authorization and student self-carry, self-administer procedures.
4. Provide or arrange for annual staff training; this should include the training required by Minnesota law and any training that is part of a student's IEP health or emergency plan or a student's Section 504 Plan. It may also include training that is part of the reasonable accommodations provided to an employee.

##### **C. Nutrition Services**

1. Provide menus that identify peanut and other food ingredients when appropriate. Identify students with food allergies as they go through the school lunch line.
2. Attend annual training.

##### **D. Parent/Guardian**

1. Work with the school nurse and staff as well as others on the 504 team or IEP team to develop a plan to address the student's needs.
2. Provide the school with information from the student's health care provider and authorization for emergency medication administration if needed.
3. Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications when expired.
4. Teach each child about his or her specific allergies or asthma and the plan for addressing these needs in school where the student is able to do this.
5. In the case of food allergies, and/or provide "safe" food for students to eat. Teachers, school staff, or other parents should not be put into the position of deciding if a "food is safe" such as label reading for ingredients.