

1 **LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY**

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3 **LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES POLICY** First Reading: September 20, 2011
4
5 Second Reading: October 25, 2011
6
7 Date Approved by
8 School Committee: December 6, 2011
9
10 Signature of Chair: On File
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14 The Lexington Public Schools (LPS) will maintain a system-wide response plan to address life-
15 threatening allergic reactions. Parents/guardians, primary care physicians and/or allergists are
16 encouraged to provide recommendations in writing to the appropriate building principal
17 regarding the content of an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) for any student who has a life
18 threatening allergy.

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20 **I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGY POLICY**

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22 The Lexington Public Schools (LPS) will:

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24 A. Provide life-threatening allergy awareness education and EpiPen training for all LPS
25 employees based on Department of Public Health and Department of Elementary and
26 Secondary Education recommendations.
27
28 B. The use of food for curriculum instruction or special luncheons during the school day
29 will be restricted to approval by the principal and school nurse. The use of food as a
30 reward in any classroom will be eliminated, unless otherwise specified in an
31 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504. All schools will require that any parties and
32 celebrations during the school day are food free.
33
34 C. The principal or designee in each school will implement a “No Food or Utensil Sharing”
35 practice, with particular focus at the elementary school level.
36
37 D. If necessary, each elementary school will provide peanut free/tree-nut free tables in the
38 cafeteria. Reasonable efforts will be made for such tables to become “free” of other
39 allergens as deemed needed for an individual student through documentation from the
40 student’s primary care physician or board certified allergist. At the middle and high
41 schools accommodations will be made as needed.
42
43 E. No bake sales will be permitted at elementary or middle schools during the school day.
44 Bake sales conducted outside the school day are limited to those at which only adults are
45 allowed to purchase products. At the high school level, the sale of food products as a
46 fundraiser will be at the discretion of the principal. LPS staff is not responsible for
47 implementing the Life Threatening Allergy Policy and related protocols and procedures
48 during (1) school sponsored events beyond the school day that are open to the public
49 (e.g. school athletic contests, plays, or ceremonies) or (2) programs or events on LPS
50 property that are sponsored by various staff, parent, community, or private groups.
51 School nurses are not available after school hours.

- 1 F. At the elementary school level, when a student’s medical need to be in an LTA-safe
2 environment is clearly documented by a board certified allergist, and clear directions
3 from the allergist are provided, LPS will make reasonable efforts to create LTA-safe
4 classrooms for the student. LPS reserves the right to consult with a board certified
5 allergist of its choice to review the recommendation to determine if it will authorize its
6 implementation.
7
- 8 G. Each school’s Incident Management Plan will include how to respond to a life-
9 threatening allergic reaction. This plan will be reviewed annually by each building
10 principal and will be part of all LTA and EpiPen administration training.
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- 12 H. Because of the confidentiality of medical records, a student’s parent/guardian has the
13 responsibility for notifying school bus drivers directly of any life threatening allergies of
14 which the bus driver should be aware.
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- 16 I. For any event outside of the regular school day which is neither sponsored by LPS nor
17 part of the LPS curriculum, the sponsor of such event is responsible for assuring that
18 appropriate provisions concerning LTA’s of participants are in place.
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21 **II. EMPLOYEE/CONTRACTOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

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- 23 A. Life-threatening allergy (LTA) awareness training will be required of all teachers, aides,
24 tutors, secretaries and student teachers in the school system.
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- 26 B. The custodial staff either will be included in staff LTA-awareness training or will be
27 offered informational sessions on life-threatening allergies by the building principal.
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- 29 C. All substitute teachers contracted by the LPS will receive LTA-awareness training,
30 following the LPS curriculum. No substitute will be employed in the system who has not
31 received this training. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources will be
32 responsible for ensuring that personnel who provide contracted services to LPS students
33 and substitute teachers are provided LTA-awareness training.
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- 35 D. Food-service personnel contracted by LPS will be given building-based LTA-awareness
36 training annually.
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- 38 E. The LPS Business Office will offer to bus drivers the opportunity for LTA-awareness
39 training annually, and will as part of the specifications with the bus contractor, require
40 their participation.
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- 42 F. Principals or their designees will be responsible to schedule LTA-awareness training in
43 their schools and to ensure that all employees are trained.
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46 **RESOURCES**

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48 MA Department of Public Health: 105 CMR 210.100
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50 Sicherer MD, Scott ,et al. “Prevalence of peanut and tree nut allergy in the United States ...A 5
51 year follow-up study” (December 2003) . Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology..
52

53 “Report on EpiPen Administration in Schools.” (2009). Boston, MA: Massachusetts Department
54 of Public Health School Health Unit.
55

56 “Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools” Massachusetts Department of
57 Education (2002).
58

59 Sheetz, A. H. & Goodman, I. F. (Eds.). (2007). *The Comprehensive School Health Manual*.
60 Boston, MA: Massachusetts Department of Public Health.