



ATTLEBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Health Services

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE FOR NON-FOOD CELEBRATIONS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Food allergies and food related medical issues are becoming increasingly common among students in our district and throughout our nation. Nationally, 1 out of 13 children have a food allergy. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that has a rapid onset and can result in death. Food allergy is the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside of a hospital setting.

There is no cure for food allergies and most food related medical issues. The best strategy to manage food allergies is prevention. The Attleboro Public Schools believe that all students will receive their academic education in a safe environment. For students with food allergies and food related medical issues, this means avoiding potentially life-threatening reactions.

All of the Attleboro Public Elementary Schools have implemented a new procedure for managing food related concerns in the classroom. To make the classroom as safe as possible and to promote inclusion of all students, we are changing the way we celebrate birthdays and other special events.

Food treats are no longer allowed to be sent in to the classrooms for various celebrations and NO "food sharing" is allowed.

Students can bring in their own peanut/tree nut free snack for snack time as usual and peanut/nut products are allowed to be consumed in the school cafeterias. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday and/or holiday in the classroom, we suggest alternatives to food treats such as special pencils, book marks, stickers or cards to give out. You may also want to consider donating a book in your child's name to the classroom. Please visit the district health services website for more alternative ideas. The classroom teacher will have the final determination on how and when Non-food celebrations will be handled in his/her classroom.

We believe in the compassionate understanding of our students and community members as we work together to increase understanding and education about life-threatening food allergies. We thank you for your cooperation, compliance, and flexibility in our attempt to keep ALL students safe during the school day.

Sincerely,

The Attleboro Public School Elementary Principals and School Nurses