

Wyoming City Schools

Guidelines for Food in the Classroom K-12

Student safety is always the district's highest priority. A significant number of children in our schools have life threatening food allergies. The district has taken appropriate steps with our cafeterias, cleaning practices, and other aspects of food service in order to protect student health.

Clearly marked, peanut/tree nut-free tables are available in cafeterias at all grade levels. Primary school lunch monitors will check the lunches of students who wish to sit at peanut/tree nut-free tables. The monitors check for obvious items that contain peanuts/tree-nuts. Custodians clean the peanut/tree nut-free tables using separate cloths and cleaning solution. As necessary, other cafeteria arrangements can be made to accommodate individual students with life threatening food allergies

Each school year, the Wyoming City School District school nurse and school health specialists review student health records for confirmed life threatening food allergies by a medical professional. All classroom teachers are notified of students in their classes who have life threatening food allergies. Principals and building administrative staff are provided with a master list of students with food allergies. All district staff are trained annually in the use of Epinephrine Auto-Injector rescue medication.

CLASSROOM EVENTS WITH SHARED FOOD

To ensure that the district also keeps classrooms safe for students with life threatening food allergies, the district has adopted the following requirements for food in grades K-12 classrooms. In the event that students/parents/staff bring food to share in the classroom without following the guidelines, the food will be withheld from the classroom and returned home with the student or parent at the end of the school day.

1. Parties involving food in the primary and middle schools take place four (4) times a year: Halloween, winter holiday, Valentine's Day and end-of-year celebrations. Food brought in by a faculty member, student, or a student's family for purposes of sharing during the classroom party must be unopened and packaged in the original packaging with ingredient list(s). No homemade food items will be allowed for consumption in the classroom. Food items for the parties must come from the district-approved food list.
2. In order to have special food-related events such as rewards, cultural activities, and other curriculum-specific activities, the teacher must follow the steps listed below before using food in the classroom:
 - a. The teacher is required to review the life threatening food allergies for students in the classroom and ensure that foods used in the lesson, rewards, cultural activity, and other curriculum-specific activities are free from allergens for students in the classroom.
 - b. Food served must be packaged and sent in the original container or prepared from original containers. Food does not need to be individually wrapped, but should be sent in unopened condition. Leftover food will be returned with the student that provided it for the classroom.

- c. Nutritional and ingredient labels must be available for each item served.
3. The district recognizes that the Individual Education Plan (IEP) of some students may permit the use of food as a reward or incentive; any food used as part of the IEP plan should be free of life threatening allergens affecting other students in the class(s) and given only to the individual student.
4. Staff members will only use food and snack items from the approved snack lists in reward systems.
5. Spontaneous lessons, activities, rewards, cultural activities involving food in the classroom are not permitted.

BIRTHDAYS

1. Birthdays are very special days for students. We acknowledge every child's birthday during the school year. To maintain a safe classroom environment, food birthday treats are not permitted. Alternatives to food celebrations can be coordinated at the building or classroom level.
2. In the event that students/parents/staff bring food to share in the classroom, the food will be withheld from the classroom and returned home with the student or parent at the end of the school day.

CLASSROOM SNACKS

Some classrooms may have a scheduled snack time each day due to the lunch times for students. Students will be required to bring in their own snack, from a district-approved snack list. The approved list contains a variety of snacks free from common allergens. Students that bring snacks that do not appear on the approved snack list will be asked to return those snacks to their backpack. Those snacks will be available to those students at lunch or the end of the day. Students are not permitted to share snacks.

FOOD EVENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM SETTING

At times, students at all grades participate in events where food is served or available. These guidelines are not meant to restrict or limit the food available for students/families during these events. Examples of such events include, but are not limited to, school field trips, after-school activities, events during the school day where food is served in the cafeteria, overnight trips, and athletic events. These events will not be impacted by food guidelines.