



## **“Allergy Safe Zone” Option for Cafeteria Seating**

***Must be reviewed annually***

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Kearney R-1 School District has implemented Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis guidelines and procedures for preventing and responding to allergic reactions. These procedures do not guarantee an allergen-free environment; instead, it is designed to increase awareness, provide education and training, reduce the chance of exposure and outline responses to allergic reactions. The best form of prevention for life-threatening allergies is avoidance of the allergen.

The guidelines outline specific requirements that must be complied with in order for food to be brought into a classroom setting or any instructional area. The guidelines provide clear and concise procedures in this area, and all faculty and administration are aware of these guidelines. However, it must be pointed out that while they are specific, a situation can still occur where a non-compliant food item may enter the classroom and not be detected. While we hope this does not happen, we must still remain aware that it can. For this reason, we feel it necessary to make you aware of this possibility and advise that if you still have concerns in this area you may want to provide your own child’s snacks / treats for parties and other social events. Feel free to discuss your concerns and options with your child’s teacher and/or health room staff.

Also with these procedures we encourage designated seating in the cafeteria for our severe food allergy students. This area will be considered an “*allergy safe zone*”. Other classmates may sit in this area, provided they are not consuming any allergen of concern. The most common severe allergy of our students is to nut products. Students having a school-prepared hot lunch are considered “safe”, as School Food Authority (SFA) works within our guidelines and does not serve foods prepared with nuts or nut products. Our “*allergy safe zone*” requires a specific cleaning protocol to avoid cross contamination, which is another step in providing safety. Although we take several steps to control exposure to food allergens, the only sure safe plan is strict and complete avoidance. We feel it is necessary to encourage the “*allergy safe zone*” area for all of our severe allergy students, but it is your decision as the parent to make the decision to utilize this extra step, or not.

- I have read the above and wish to have my child sit in the “allergy safe zone” area with designated classmates.**
  
- I have read the above and choose NOT to have my child sit in the “allergy safe zone” area. I understand that by doing so, the risk that my child may be exposed to an allergen may be increased.**

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_