

A. Introduction

Elizabeth Buckley School has a foundational policy of being an inclusive school which strives to meet the needs of all children, including those with allergies. Thus, this policy aims to balance the necessity of keeping learners with allergies safe while allowing for a small number of select events with food at the school.

B. Principles and Protocols

In order of priority, below are the principles upon which this food policy is based and upon which decisions should be based when considering serving foods and which foods to serve:

- 1) Safety is the most important factor. Peanuts/Tree Nuts (including peanuts, cashews, almonds, Brazil nuts and all tree nuts) and nut butters are not to be served or brought to the school. Items with a “may contain” or “processed in a factory that processes nuts” are not to be served at the school.
 - **Rationale:** Nut dust and butters are oily, sticky and difficult to control and can trigger anaphylaxis just by their presence. This also applies to emergency provisions and fundraisers.
- 2) Generally, serving food at school or school events is minimized to avoid stress for organizers and students. Where food is planned to be offered, families with allergies or sensitivities will have an opportunity to provide input. Fundraisers such as “movie night” will offer an optional food choice for purchase that has been discussed with families with allergies or sensitivities ahead of time. Offering an option which can be enjoyed by a wide range of learners has the benefit of preventing food that triggers anaphylaxis from being brought to the event.
- 3) No food will be brought to the school by parents for classes, including birthdays or other holidays.
 - **Rationale:** Despite best intentions, food brought in spontaneously as a treat by a parent cannot be deemed safe unless it is packaged food that is clearly labeled and inspected by parents ahead of time. Parents of children who do not have allergies cannot know how to safely prepare food for children with allergies and/or sensitivities.

Food At School Policy – Elementary Campus

Elizabeth Buckley School

17 May 2017

- 4) At the beginning of the school year, food events should be identified, and a report put together in consultation with the Principal and the PAC Chair. This report will be provided to parents of children with food allergies or sensitivities, the PAC Chair, the Principal and a board member. If there are concerns, parents can raise them with the Principal. A list of events for the school year with known food events will be provided to families.
 - **Rationale:** This would have the benefits of: avoiding surprises during the year; minimizing time and effort trying to reach consensus on an ad hoc basis; and reducing stress throughout the year when new food events are proposed. If an impacted child comes to EBS at another time in the year, the parents will be consulted on the calendar. It also has the benefit of adapting to changes on a yearly basis. Efforts must be made by both parents and school staff to be reasonable and come to the table willing to take an approach of making small accommodations to allow for some food events while protecting the mental and physical health of learners.

- 5) If teachers are using materials in art or science projects that contain known allergens to students, families are to be consulted ahead of time to ensure safety.

- 6) For any food served at EBS, families will be sent information in advance, in writing (email, note in backpacks etc.) with details about the date, time, item served, links to websites if applicable. Families must provide signed/emailed consent for their child to participate, and any child that does not have that consent will not be served.
 - **Rationale:** For many reasons, families need to be able to be able to make decisions about what food their children eat. This also provides an additional level of safety over the “opt out” option as even if a family misses the information, their child will not be accidentally served something unsafe or undesirable.