

Peanut and Tree Nut Product Ban

For children with severe allergies to peanuts and tree nut products exposure can cause a condition titled anaphylaxis, which is a serious health concern that in extreme cases can even result in death. Hawthorne has children who have severe allergies to peanut and tree nut products, and as a result, this has been a topic of discussion at meetings throughout the district.

Hawthorne Public Schools has implemented a nut free policy for all of our preschool and elementary facilities. Members of the school community are asked to follow these regulations to ensure the safety of all affected students.

The following items will not be permitted in our PreK – Grade 5 schools.

- Any foods that contain peanuts or tree nuts (almonds, cashews, pecans, walnuts, etc.).
- Any food that have precautionary labels that the product contains or may contain peanuts or tree nuts.
- All baked goods with unspecified ingredients.

In order to minimize the possibility of accidental exposure, current cafeteria procedures will continue to be in effect in the Pre-School and Elementary Schools. Please note:

- The district's food service Pomptonian will continue its ban on serving any peanut product to any student at any level of our operation.
- There will be designated areas in the cafeteria for children with peanut allergies, and these children will be allowed to have their friends sit with them in this section.
- Students who are eating the cafeteria lunch and no snack from home will be seated adjacent to the children with peanut allergies.
- Students bringing lunch or snacks from home will be seated in an area with maximum distance from the children with peanut allergies. This procedure will minimize accidental exposure. Custodians will be asked to wipe down the cafeteria tables, especially those seating children bringing lunch and snacks from home.
- Handrails and doorknobs leading to classrooms will be wiped down after each lunch period.

Because of the age and the level of awareness for middle school and high school students, there will be a voluntary ban on peanuts and tree nut products in the middle school and high school. Students in Lincoln Middle School and Hawthorne High School are being asked whenever possible to avoid all foods containing peanuts, almonds, cashews, pecans, walnuts, etc.

Please note that the ban on peanut and tree nut products is in effect for all school and non-school activities conducted on our premises. Your understanding is critically important to our joint goal to ensure the safety of our children at all times.

These regulations were put into effect February 4, 2013, in all six public school facilities. On behalf of the children with these allergies and their families, thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

The following link contains material for informational purposes only. Hawthorne Board of Education accepts no responsibility for the reliability, accuracy, or content.

<http://snacksafely.com/snackguide>