




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Nurse Supervisors
School Medical Advisors

FROM: John D. Frassinelli, Bureau Chief 
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: December 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Addressing Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools

[Public Act No. 18-185: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Task Force On Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools](#) amended existing Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) with regard to supporting students with life-threatening allergic conditions.

Under Section 6 of Public Act (PA) 18-185, which made changes to C.G.S. Section 10-212a, a clarification was included to address the various situations regarding the needs of students with life-threatening allergies to ensure the immediate availability and access to epinephrine cartridge injectors:

*In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of such students' parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical professional, such students may **possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medication**, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to protect such students against serious harm or death.*

Districts should ensure that this language is included in school policies to allow for flexibilities according to students' needs and developmental, physical and emotional capacity to manage their own allergies and medication. The State Department of Education, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health, will be amending state regulations to include this language, which applies not only while the student is in school but also while receiving school transportation services.

Over the next several months, the State Department of Education (CSDE) will be reviewing the *Guidelines for Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Connecticut Schools*, developed in 2012, to include additional requirements outlined in PA 18-185. The current guidelines are still accurate and available on the CSDE's website at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Managing-Life-Threatening-Food-Allergies-in-Connecticut-Schools>.

Finally, by June 30, 2019, school bus drivers need to receive training, in person or online, to include: (1) the identification of the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, (2) the administration of epinephrine by a cartridge injector, (3) the notification of emergency personnel, and (4) the reporting of an incident involving a student and a life-threatening allergic reaction.

The responsibility for the provision of the training lies with each carrier. C.G.S. Section 14-212 of the Connecticut Motor Vehicle laws define carrier as: “any local or regional school district, any educational institution providing elementary or secondary education or any person, firm or corporation under contract to such district or institution engaged in the business of transporting students, or any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of transporting primarily persons under the age of twenty-one years for compensation.”

The CSDE encourages school administrators to work with their district transportation providers and companies to ensure that drivers transporting students receive this life-saving training by the June 30, 2019, deadline.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Stephanie Knutson, Education Consultant, at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.

JDF:sk

cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer
Stephanie Knutson, Education Consultant