

**Kankakee School District #111**  
**Important Message Concerning Section 504**  
**Life-threatening Allergies & Chronic Illnesses**

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is our goal to ensure a safe and supportive environment to all of our students. The legislature passed Public Act 96-0349 to address safe and supportive environments for students with life-threatening allergies or chronic illnesses. Public Act 96-0349 requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules. The intent of this notice is to inform you of your student's rights and protections that promote safe participation in our school's programs.

If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the District's School Nurse or 504 Coordinator by contacting the Special Education Department at 815-933-0720. You will be asked to submit The Physician Statement for Food Substitution, Allergy History Form and Illinois Food Allergy Emergency Action Plan and Treatment Authorization Form to your school immediately.

Section 504 protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If a student is suspected of having a qualifying disability under Section 504, the school will convene a Section 504 team to determine eligibility and as needed, appropriate supports and services to address the student's individual needs. Under Section 504, a student with a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, and learning, may meet the definition of a student with a disability. If the student has a qualifying disability, the 504 team will look at how the disability limits access to school programs and whether the student is eligible for protection from discrimination under Section 504. If the student is protected under Section 504, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that the student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.

Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through the Educational Support System with an Educational Support Team plan and an Individualize Health Care Plan (IHCP).

Some students may not only be protected by Section 504, but may also be eligible for special education services. The Section 504 coordinator or the School Nurse may help with referrals to the Special Education Department of the District.

Sincerely,

Jeanette C. Kreuz, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

Developed: January 10, 2011

