

From: CT Mama [mailto:ctmama99@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2016 9:34 AM
To: Phillips, Jeanie
Subject: Testimony for Task Force on Food Allergies in Schools in CT

Hello,

I have a daughter in public school in Fairfield, CT. My daughter has life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. The school has done a good job at keeping her safe but there are many areas that need improvement. The areas I would like to see improved are cafeteria management, after school programs and bus accessibility.

For the cafeteria, we have 2 nut free tables. However, this is isolating for the allergic children and forces them to sit in a corner, away from their friends. I would like there to be the opposite, a NUT table. Lots of school districts are doing this. The children that bring in nut products in their lunch, by choice, may sit at this table. Management and cleaning will be MUCH easier in this model. Our allergic kids have no choices. They are forced to sit away from the group. The other kids can eat and sit wherever they want. Please consider this model for state wide cafeteria management. There are districts in CT doing this very successfully.

Currently, there is no system in place for my daughter to attend after school programs and have her epi pen with her. I would like all after school providers to be trained and required to administer epi pen as needed. I understand it's not a "school" function. But these activities are offered by and held at the school, so there should be some cross training involved. My daughter is now excluded from these activities she wants to do because she won't be able to have her epi pen with her.

Finally, my daughter is currently unable to ride the bus because there is no assistance for her on the bus. I am requesting training and availability for epi pen trained personnel to be on the bus. I understand this is a financial concern, however, this can be a volunteer job, and perhaps a school employee can be designated to take the short bus ride with those that need monitoring. I understand this is a complicated proposition, but I do think it needs to be addressed. It's completely unfair and unjust for my daughter to be excluded from the bus because she can't have her life saving medication with her.

Thank you so much for addressing these concerns. We are eternally grateful for any and all assistance we can get from the task force.

Mom from Fairfield, CT