



District Administration
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Education Service Center, 1240 S. Adams St., Marion, IN 46953

Aug. 16, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Severe, life-threatening food allergies are becoming more prevalent, and we have seen an increase of such cases in Marion Community Schools as well. In response we are taking steps to make our cafeterias and our schools as safe as possible for all students. This includes some modification to our cafeteria menus.

During the 2013-14 school year, elementary schools (K-4) will not serve peanut butter sandwiches or other peanut products from their cafeterias. While we will make every effort to limit peanut products, we cannot guarantee that our menu and buildings will be completely peanut-free.

At this time, as we continue to evaluate students' needs, we are asking parents to follow our lead and avoid sending peanut butter sandwiches or peanut products in student lunch boxes or for classroom snacks.

In place of peanut butter sandwiches, our cafeterias are offering a variety of foods, including yogurt, mozzarella cheese sticks, fresh vegetables, fresh or canned fruit, whole grain pretzels, and granola. We've found that this menu option has already become a popular choice during the first week of school.

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school nurse and provide the appropriate documentation to help us care for your student. If your child has a life-threatening allergy, please contact your school office and request information from your principal or school nurse. Documentation from a physician – including a completed "MCS Food Allergy/Disability Physician Documentation Form" – is required in such circumstances. Once we have that form from you, we can start to plan how best to accommodate your student.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work together to keep our schools safe for all students.

Sincerely,

Marion Community Schools Administration