

The following message is being sent on behalf of Mark Fisher, Superintendent of Education/Leadership/Operations/Family of Schools Lead/School Effectiveness and is being sent to :
ALL ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS AND VICE PRINCIPALS

In the Durham District School Board, we are committed to ensuring the safety of all students.

1. Sabrina's Law requires that all district school boards have procedures and training in place to protect students at risk of anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and can cause death. Triggers for anaphylaxis may include such things as food (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts).
2. Our goal is to eliminate preventable serious reactions and death due to anaphylaxis and to **reduce the risk of exposure** for students at risk of anaphylaxis to potential allergens.
3. Schools within the DDSB can be considered "Allergy Aware" and "Allergy Safe" as one cannot guarantee that the school environment is 100% allergen free. Where possible the learning environment should be free from any trace of the allergen.
4. We strongly recommend that all schools exercise due caution and refrain from allowing soy bean butter and other similar peanut-free spreads (e.g. "WOW" soy butter) into schools. ***The risk is that these types of products look, smell and taste like real peanut butter. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult for school administrators to control for a "peanut safe" environment.*** As alternatives, other peanut-free spreads that don't look, smell and taste like peanut butter can be used as part of a nutritious lunch (e.g. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole).

Please ask parents not to send these products in their child's school lunches or snacks.

More information can be found in procedure #5135.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mark Fisher, Superintendent of Education for Leadership/Operations/Family of Schools Lead/School Effectiveness.