

**FOOD ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS**

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4 **WHEREAS,** Food allergies and anaphylactic reactions among children are an increasing school health  
5 issue, and approximately 2.2 million school-age children are at risk in the U.S., including  
6 more than 40,000 children in Missouri, and reactions account for 30,000 emergency room  
7 visits and 150-200 deaths, many in schools, each year in the U.S.; and  
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- 9 **WHEREAS,** The prevalence of food allergies among children in the U.S. has increased substantially  
10 with the incidence of peanut allergies doubling over a recent five-year period, and  
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- 12 **WHEREAS,** Just eight foods account for 85-90 percent of all food allergic reactions, namely milk,  
13 egg, wheat, peanut, soy, tree nuts, fish and shellfish; and  
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- 15 **WHEREAS,** Accidental ingestion or exposure, by children, may occur most often at schools and  
16 daycares where children often consume two meals and a snack during the day, and in  
17 some cases a reaction may be the first sign of an allergy; and  
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- 19 **WHEREAS,** The importance of managing food-allergic students has been recognized by the National  
20 Association of School Nurses; the National Association of Elementary School Principals;  
21 the National School Boards Association; the American Medical Association; the  
22 American Academy of Pediatrics; and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma &  
23 Immunology; and  
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- 25 **WHEREAS,** Because there is no cure for food allergies, strict avoidance is the only way to prevent a  
26 reaction; therefore be it  
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- 28 **RESOLVED,** That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and  
29 councils, inform students, parents, school personnel and the community about the  
30 prevalence of food allergies, allergen avoidance, emergency responses and ways in which  
31 safety for children with food allergies can be increased in the school, the child care  
32 setting, and the home; and be it further  
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- 34 **RESOLVED,** That Missouri PTA, its units and councils, work with local school districts to encourage  
35 consideration of the risks of food allergies when planning PTA and school-sponsored  
36 events; and be it further  
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- 38 **RESOLVED,** That Missouri PTA, its units and councils, support legislation aimed at improving the  
39 lives of all individuals affected by food allergies and anaphylaxis; and be it further  
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- 41 **RESOLVED,** That Missouri PTA, its units and councils, encourage parents and guardians to take  
42 personal responsibility for the safety of their children by informing their school, child  
43 care providers, and group activity leaders of existing food allergies.  
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Submitted by Missouri PTA Resolutions Committee  
Recommended for Consideration by Missouri PTA Board of Managers

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