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Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies - Guidelines and Requirements

Why SB 95 is needed:

- In 2009, The Maryland State Department of Education and Department of Health issued voluntary guidance on food allergies in schools, anticipating that they would develop their own guidelines.
- But currently, over half of Maryland's 24 public school districts are missing food allergy policies on their websites and several are missing individual item allergy information.
- Among districts that do have food allergy policy information, the amount of information and the details vary greatly.
- Research shows that children are at the highest risk for anaphylaxis and suffering a fatal allergic reaction, especially for children that may not be able to identify and avoid all sources of their allergen(s).
- An estimated 18% of children with food allergies have had an allergic reaction while at school.

The purpose of SB 95 is to:

- Require each county board of education to adopt and implement guidelines in accordance with the Maryland State School Health Service guidelines. The goal of which is to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic agents to students with food allergies.
- Provide formal guidance and roles and responsibilities to school administrators, teachers, and staff to keep students with allergies safe.
- Provide transparency to students and their parents/guardians regarding what allergens they can expect to be present in school meals.
- Provide a standard of care to ensure Maryland public school students are protected and can fully participate in all school functions.

- Have each public school develop a system to disclose foods served in the school and major food allergens contained.
- Ensure schools post, in a conspicuous location in the cafeteria, a list of all foods being served and any major food allergens contained.
- Establish procedures for self-administration of medication or an employee to respond in good faith to an anaphylactic reaction of a child.