

August 6, 2007

I want to thank Nicole Smith for speaking to us regarding legislation and schools. We really need to get a bill introduced and sponsored in Colorado. After listening to Nicole, it is easy to understand the importance of this. Schools need to be liable and take food allergies seriously. I have a "health plan" for Nick at his school and thought this was sufficient. Now, I'm planning on speaking to the principal and possibly pursuing something more in writing like a 504 plan. If you are interested in helping Nicole pursue legislation or have any contacts, please email her at nicole@allergicchild.com.

As for schools, it is almost imperative to find a school who has a principal with a backbone and who will take food allergies seriously. Every school has a School Accountability Committee and if possible, think about volunteering for the committee. In fact, volunteer as much as possible! The more people who know you, the better.

A 504 plan is a legal document. It basically means that your child has an inability to do "regular things" one of them being eating. The school needs to make "reasonable" accommodations to ensure the safety of your child. This is where things get shady - the "reasonable" part. The 504 plan only works with federal funded schools, ie public and not private. It is important to redo your 504 plan each year and be able to sit down and speak to everyone who will be involved with your child. One thing I didn't know is that 46% of all reactions at school happen in the classroom. Is the other percentage in the cafeteria?

Another new thing with schools is the WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 which established the need for a school wellness policy. More information is available at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/TN/Healthy/108-265.pdf> .

Model school wellness policies can be found at:

<http://www.schoolwellnesspolicies.org/> .

The Colorado Department of Education (DOE) has info about school wellness policies at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriWellnessGuide.htm> . These guidelines aren't specific to our state in many cases, yet it's all the DOE has provided.

Thank you again Nicole for speaking to us and anyone interested in signing up for [Allergicchild.com](http://www.allergicchild.com)'s free newsletter can go to: <http://www.allergicchild.com/newsletter.htm> .

Don't forget to register for the Food Allergy Walk on September 9 at Washington Park. Go to www.foodallergywalk.org. We need to have a good showing which will help increase awareness!!!! If you can volunteer, please contact Kim Bozich at kbozich_faana@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to get recipes to Anna Korbel at purplepiggy13@msn.com. She has all of the ones from the website and could use MANY MANY MORE!!!!

I am working on adding info to the www.mosaickids.org website! Sorry for the LONG delay but it has been a LONG summer!

Our next meeting is September 10. (September 3 is Labor Day). We should have a nutritionist speaking and I will confirm. October 1 should be the rescheduled feeding specialist.

Tentative date on our Halloween Party - Maybe Sat, 10/20 or Sun, 10/21? We are out of town on fall break the next weekend and out of town for Halloween. Funny, our problem with Halloween isn't the candy but how many people don't have their dogs in the house or on a leash!

Thank you - Moiria
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