

Know the FAACTs

about Food Allergy Documents *and* which one is right for your student.

Understanding food allergy accommodations in schools requires knowing about different legal and medical documents. These documents can get confusing.

There's an "IHP/ IHCP" and an "AECF/FAAP" and even a "504 Plan"!

Don't forget about an "IEP" if needed too!

At a minimum, schools should have an Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan (AECF) on file for all students known to be at risk for anaphylaxis. Schools should also identify students who qualify for a 504 Plan and assist parents in the creation of the plan. Additionally, if a student qualifies for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the accommodations relating to his/her food allergies may be included in this document.

Sound confusing? See below for an explanation of terms:

Section 504 Plan ("504 Plan")

Under language found in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and 34 C.F.R Part 104, a 504 plan provides written accommodations designed to safely include a student with a disability in all programs and activities provided or sponsored by the school.

Section 504 plans set out specific instructions to ensure the student's well-being and safety. This document is a tool for educators to use to assist in supervising food allergic children when they are in the educators' care. 504 plans are grounded in Federal Civil Rights law and are enforced by the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHCP)

Individual Health Plans (IHPs), also referred to as an Individual Health Care Plans (IHCPs), are formal written agreements between school administrators and parents that address medical concerns that do not affect a student's ability to learn. An IHP/IHCP should be provided by the school to the parent in order to outline the **medical care** necessary for children with food allergies.

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Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan/Food Allergy Action Plan (AECF/FAAP)

The AECF, sometimes called a FAAP, is a student's individualized emergency care plan, or guide to treat anaphylaxis. It is signed by a doctor, and gives the educator information on the student's condition and specific instructions to follow should the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction occur. The AECF/FAAP may be made a part of the IHCP (Individual Health Plan), 504 Plan or IEP.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Under IDEA, (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1975) each qualified student may receive special education and related services documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP). A qualified student is a student that has one or more of 13 categories of disability specifically set forth in IDEA.

If a student with a food allergy has been identified under IDEA as qualified for an IEP, the student's accommodations relating to their food allergies may be included within the student's IEP. This too is a legal document, but different in the fact that it addresses services mainly provided through Special Education for learning disabilities. Food allergy may often qualify as a physical disability, but in most cases, food allergy does not qualify as a learning disability. Therefore, unless a student also has learning disabilities as defined by IDEA, an IEP most likely would not be an appropriate document to address food allergy related concerns.

Additional Documents that you may need from your school:

- USDA accommodation form for meal substitutions
- Medicine storage or administration
- Self-carrying epinephrine
- Accompaniment form for field trips or special events
- Permission or documentation for having medication on the bus

Visit FAACT's [Civil Right Advocacy Resource Center](#) for more information.