



## Rye City School District

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*Eric Byrne, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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Summer 2019

Dear RCSD Parents and Guardians:

A number of children in the Rye City School District have allergies to peanuts/tree nuts/sesame seeds. Should one of these students ingest, touch or inhale these nuts or seeds, a severe life-threatening reaction may follow. While there are students with different types of allergies, evidence suggests that students in this age group with peanut/tree nut/sesame allergies are most at risk. Please be aware that:

- Nut/seed allergies require stringent avoidance and management plans because they are the most common food allergies in children, adolescents, and adults
- Reactions to nuts/seeds are often more severe than to other foods and are a leading cause of severe, life-threatening, and even fatal allergic reactions
- Cross contamination is most likely to occur with peanut butter due to the adhesive nature of the peanut protein to other foods/surfaces

I encourage you to join us in ensuring a safe environment for all our children. To do this we need the support and cooperation of the entire District. We respectfully request students bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts, tree nuts, and sesame. We are also asking parents/guardians to read food labels and check for peanut/tree nut/sesame ingredients prior to sending food to school.

If you have caregivers who provide your child(ren) with lunches or snacks, we ask that you share this letter with them. Rye City School District acknowledges that it is not possible to guarantee an environment completely free of potential hazards; however, compliance to reasonable guidelines and requests will minimize potential risks.

We trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. We realize this request may require added planning and effort on your part when packing your child's lunch and snacks and we wish to express our sincere appreciation in advance for your support and cooperation. If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns about food allergy-related issues after speaking with your school nurse or Principal, please contact me at [byrne.eric@ryeschools.org](mailto:byrne.eric@ryeschools.org)

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools