



SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

ANAPHYLAXIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Act immediately. Follow the student's emergency plan when available, administer epinephrine when authorized and trained, and activate EMS/911.

Purpose and Background

Bethune is committed to preventing and responding to severe allergic reactions. Anaphylaxis is a rapid, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Common triggers include foods, insect stings, medications, latex, and environmental exposures. Avoiding known allergens and preparing staff to respond are essential to student safety.

Recognizing Possible Anaphylaxis

Breathing Wheezing, shortness of breath, repetitive cough, throat tightness, or difficulty breathing.	Mouth / Throat Difficulty swallowing, hoarse voice, swelling of the lips, tongue, throat, or other mucous membranes.
Circulation Dizziness, fainting, weak pulse, pale or bluish color, sudden drop in blood pressure, or shock.	Skin / Body Hives, itching, flushing, swelling, vomiting, abdominal symptoms, confusion, or a sudden sense that something is wrong.

Important: Anaphylaxis may occur without hives or other skin symptoms.

Emergency Response

1	Recognize and Respond	Do not leave the student alone or send the student to the nurse or office alone. Activate the student's Emergency Care Plan when available and notify the school nurse or trained responder.
2	Give Epinephrine	A school nurse or trained employee may administer auto-injectable epinephrine under the school's standing protocol when the responder, in good faith, professionally believes the student is experiencing anaphylaxis.
3	Call EMS / 911	Activate emergency medical services immediately. Inform EMS that anaphylaxis is suspected and whether epinephrine was administered.
4	Monitor and Notify	Closely monitor the student until EMS arrives. Notify the parent or guardian and provide EMS with the student's plan, medication information, and known response details.



PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND IMPLEMENTATION

Coordinated systems protect students before, during, and after an allergic emergency.

The Bethune School Team

School nurse	Administrators	Teachers and paraprofessionals
Athletic director and coaches	After-school and extracurricular leaders	Other staff delegated and trained by the school nurse

Prevention and Family Partnership

Avoidance of known allergens is the primary prevention strategy. School personnel, the student's medical provider, and the parent or guardian should work together to develop and maintain an individualized management plan. Bethune will educate appropriate members of the school community, protect confidential health information, and make reasonable accommodations to support safe participation in school activities.

Louisiana Requirements and School Readiness

R.S. 17:436.1(K) Bethune authorizes a school nurse or trained school employee to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to a student whom the responder, in good faith, professionally believes is experiencing anaphylaxis, whether or not the student has an individual epinephrine prescription.

TRAINING Bethune will maintain at least two trained employees. Training will be provided by an authorized anaphylaxis training organization, registered nurse, or licensed physician, consistent with law and school procedures.

STOCK EPINEPHRINE Bethune may maintain school-supplied auto-injectable epinephrine under a standing protocol from a Louisiana-licensed physician in a locked, secure location that remains readily accessible to appropriate trained personnel.

Anaphylaxis Management Framework

1 Precautions and Awareness Provide necessary precautions and general awareness training for staff in classrooms, common areas, the cafeteria, school buses, and school-sponsored activities.	2 Role-Specific Training Provide licensed medical personnel or registered-nurse training for adults in supervisory roles who may need to recognize and respond to a student's condition.
3 Individual Plans Create and maintain Individual Health Care Plans (IHPs) and Emergency Care Plans (ECPs), as needed, based on medical orders and family-provided information.	4 Standing Protocol Maintain a physician-authorized emergency protocol permitting the school nurse or trained designee to administer epinephrine when anaphylaxis is reasonably suspected.
5 Emergency Medication Maintain permitted emergency medication supplies, including stock auto-injectable epinephrine, in secure and accessible locations.	6 Medical Orders Follow valid medical orders and other required documents governing the care of students with severe, life-threatening conditions.
7 Student Self-Carry Permit an eligible student, as assessed and approved under applicable procedures, to carry and use prescribed life-saving medication; maintain duplicate medication with the school nurse when required by the student's plan and school procedures.	8 Reasonable Accommodations Implement appropriate and reasonable building, classroom, cafeteria, transportation, and activity accommodations to reduce exposure risks.

Policy reference: Louisiana R.S. 17:436.1(K). Emergency-response guidance is aligned with Louisiana Department of Education and CDC school-health resources. This policy does not replace an individual student's physician orders or Emergency Care Plan.