



Policy: Nut Product Policy

Date: August 2019

PACE Sunny Days Campus - Nut-Aware Campus Policy

At PACE, creating an environment that is safe for all our students is one of our highest priorities. To support this, PACE Sunny Days School Campus in San Jose is designated as a **"Nut-Aware Campus"**. This policy aims to increase our community awareness in order to minimize the risk for children with documented allergies to nut products.

The PACE Sunny Days Campus houses the following programs - Sunny Days Preschool, FACES Behavioral Services; and SD2 and SD 3 classrooms of the PACE K-12 Program. In considering the student and client community participating in these programs, we have also taken into account the fact that many children on the Autism Spectrum have limited diets. Our goal is to keep all children safe and healthy while offering clear guidelines for the use of nuts on campus.

What is a nut allergy?

It is an allergy to peanuts (a legume) and/or tree nuts. Tree nuts include, but are not limited to, almonds, filberts, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nut, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts. **Peanuts are among the most allergy-causing foods.** It is one of the food allergens most frequently linked to anaphylaxis, a life threatening allergic response to a toxin that results in an inability to breath, which may result in death.

Which food items are not permitted on the Sunny Days Campus?

Because of the potentially life-threatening consequences of an allergic reaction to peanuts for some of our students, **peanuts and peanut products are not permitted on campus.** Food manufactured in a **facility that may contain nuts** is still acceptable on campus.

What about other nuts and other nut products?

While allergic reactions have been noted from ingestion of other types of nuts, these are generally less prevalent in the population. Therefore, while we ask families to be considerate of other children in the program and refrain from sending these products to school whenever possible, they are not forbidden. However, families must refrain for using **any** nuts or products containing nuts in food that is brought to campus to share (e.g. class parties or celebrations).

Can PACE guarantee a 100% nut-free environment?

It is beyond PACE administration's control to provide a guarantee of a completely nut-free environment. This policy aims to reduce the risk rather than eliminate it.



How will PACE treat a student who reacts from being exposed to an allergen?

Families with students who have a known nut allergy will be required to provide documentation. Students who have a **severe** allergic reaction to nuts can be treated with epinephrine. Parents must provide an Epi-Pen for their child with a known, severe allergy. In addition, the PACE Campus has an Epi-Pen in a secure location, to be used during emergencies. Since PACE does not employ a nurse, the site administration or faculty team will administer the treatment. Parents and 911 will be called immediately

Guidelines for Parents/Caregivers

- Do not send in any food items to be consumed on the campus that contain **peanuts**.
- Please consider the well-being of all children in the classroom and, when possible, avoid sending in lunches and snacks containing tree nuts and tree nut products.
- Peanuts and any tree nut products are not permitted in any food that is to be shared in the class. (Students are not permitted to share their individual lunches or snacks with each other.)
- Read labels carefully to make sure the products are peanut free. This includes labels that read "May contain traces of peanuts/nuts" or "processed in a facility that processes products that contain peanuts/nuts." Food labels and ingredients change over time, so always read the label each time before purchasing snacks.
- The following nut-safe protein options to explore:
 - Sunbutter and WOWBUTTER!
 - Roasted sunflower seeds
 - Protein bars (nut-free)
- Speak to your child(ren)'s teacher if your child has a strong preference for nuts or food items that contain nuts. The teacher will work with you and the PACE team to explore alternate preferred food items.
- Inform your child(ren)'s teacher if your child has a nut allergy. The teacher will work with you and the PACE team, to create a safe and effective learning environment for their learning. Parents must inform the school of any changes in the student's health needs throughout the school year.
- Be advised that should a child with a severe, life-threatening nut allergy enroll in our program, the classroom teacher may opt to increase the nut-product restrictions within the classroom. Should this occur, all families will be appropriately notified before new restrictions are adopted.
- Here is a helpful website: <https://snacksafely.com/snacklist-20190809.pdf>

Thank you for your consideration and support in keeping all our students safe.