

Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs

Parents/Guardians should first contact the Food Service Director for information, procedures, and instruction regarding special diet prescriptions or requests.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 7, Paragraph 210 states that schools must make substitutions in lunches for students who are considered to have a disability under 7 CFR Paragraph 15b and whose disability restricts their diet. Schools may also make substitutions for students who do not have a disability but who cannot consume the regular lunch because of medical or other special dietary needs. Substitutions must be made on a case by case basis only when supported by a statement of the need for substitutions that includes recommended alternate foods. Such statement must, in the case of a student with a disability, be signed by a physician or, in the case of a student who is not disabled, by a recognized medical authority.

Parents/Guardians of students with a physician certified disability will be informed in writing of the limitations the school food service has in accurately providing nutritional and/or allergen information on products received from food service suppliers, and asked to sign a Nutritional Information Limitation and Terms agreement available at each school office.

Parents/Guardians have full latitude to choose to agree or not agree to the limitations and terms. An enhanced menu variety will be available for families that agree to the limitations and terms. Families that choose not to agree to the limitations of liability will be provided one alternative menu/meal that meets the dietary prescription provided by the physician.

Parents/Guardians, students, or staff that request nutritional, ingredient, or allergen information unrelated to a special diet request will also be asked to review and sign the Nutritional Information Limitations and Terms Agreement. Information cannot be provided without clear understanding and acknowledgment from the user of the limitations of such information.

Legal References: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, Paragraph 210

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