

Requirements for Special Diet Instructions

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

You have indicated that your student has a special dietary need that requires modification to the school menu. Federal regulations require the school to receive written instructions from an appropriate medical authority before the school can modify your student's meals. A recognized medical authority must complete one of the following forms to document your student's current special dietary needs.

- Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meals Due to Disability: If the student has a disability that affects his/her diet, a licensed physician must complete this form.
- Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meals Due to Food Allergy or Intolerance: If the student has a food allergy or intolerance, a physician or other recognized medical authority (i.e. physician's assistant or nurse practitioner) must complete this form.

The medical authority must list on the form all foods that are to be eliminated from the diet and foods that may be substituted. The appropriate medical statement should be dated no earlier than July 1 of the current school year. To ensure your student's special dietary concern are met on the first day of school, return the completed medical statement by August 1st to Rachel Walters at rachel.walters@sodexo.com.

IMPORTANT: Please sign the appropriate medical statement. If the school staff needs additional information to clarify how to carry out the diet prescription, your signature is required for the physician or medical authority to share information with the school.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Rachel Walters at 843-695-4920 ext. 60814.

Sincerely,
Rachel Walters, RDN
Registered Dietitian, Sodexo School Food and Nutrition Services

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6163 (in Spanish)

Letter to Physician/Medical Authority
Requesting Instructions for Meal Substitutions for Disabilities, Allergies, or Intolerances

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801 John McKissick Way, Summerville, SC 29483
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Dear, Physician or Medical Authority:

To allow the school food service department to comply with the USDA Child Nutrition Program regulations for meeting a student's special dietary needs, information must be provided using one of the enclosed forms. Please select the form to be completed based on the descriptions provided:

1. **Medical Statement for Student with Disability Requiring Special Meals:** A student with a disability is to be provided substitutions in foods only when supported by a statement signed by a physician licensed by the state. A "disabled person," means any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. The supporting statement must identify:
 - a. The individual's disabling condition and an indication how the disability restricts the child's diet
 - b. The major life activity affected by the condition
 - c. The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet and the food or food choice of foods that must be substitute
 - d. Time frame of meal modification (if applicable)

OR

2. **Medical Statement for Student with Food Allergy or Intolerance:** A school will withhold and, at its discretion, may make substitutions for a student who is NOT disabled but is unable to consume food items because of food intolerances or allergies. A recognized medial authority, such as a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner, must sign a supporting statement. The supporting statement must include:
 - a. An indication that the medical or other special dietary need restricts the child's diet
 - b. The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet
 - c. The food or choice of foods that may be substituted
 - d. Time frame of meal modification (if applicable)

Until complete information is received from your office, the student's special diet cannot be implemented. Your timely assistance is appreciated. It is extremely important for the parent/guardian to sing the Medical Statement. If the student's school needs to clarify the diet prescription, the physician or medical authority can provide further information ONLY if the parent/guardian has signed the Medical Statement. Please retain a copy of the completed Medical Statement with your medical records for the student.

Sincerely,
Rachel Walters, RDN
Registered Dietitian, Sodexo School Food and Nutrition Services

**Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meals
Due to Food Allergy or Intolerance**

Student Name: _____

District: _____

Birth Date: _____

School: _____

Parent Name: _____

School Contact: _____

Address: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Phone: _____

To be completed by a recognized medical authority (i.e. a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner)

The school is not required to provide substitutions for an allergy or food intolerance, and is permitted to do so **ONLY** when omitted foods and appropriate substitutions are specified by a medical authority. If diet modifications are implemented by the school, they will continue until a medical authority specifies that they should be changed or stopped. Parents/guardians are asked to annually request updated instructions for diet modifications from a medical authority.

Student has a disability affecting the diet that meets the definition of "disability" as described on the reverse side of this form. If yes, complete Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meals Due to Disability.

Diet Prescription (check all that apply):

Milk/Dairy Products Allergy – No fluid cow's milk or any other food product made with cow's milk such as cheese, yogurt, dried milk powder, etc. * * * If a student has intolerance to milk and/or milk products, then please complete Form 21-G, Request to Omit Fluid Cow's Milk.

Other (describe): _____

Food allergies – Please check appropriate box(es): ingestion contact inhalation

List the specific food(s) to be omitted and food(s) that may be substituted. If more space is needed for omitted foods or substitutions, please continue on reverse side of form. Specific foods to be omitted and specific foods to be substituted must be listed below or this statement will be returned to the physician/medical authority for clarification.

Meal Modification Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

Omit Foods Listed Below:

Substitute Foods Listed Below:

Continued on reverse side

Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meals Due to Food Allergies or Intolerances
(continued)

Comments:

Physician/Medical Authority's Certification:

I certify that the student named on this form needs the prescribed food and/or beverage omission(s) and substitution(s) due to his/her food allergy (ies) and/or food intolerance(s).

Medical Authority's Printed Name

Medical Authority's Signature

Phone Number

Date

Preparer or Other Contact's Signature

Phone Number

Date

Parent/Guardian's Consent

I hereby give permission for the school staff to make the prescribed food and/or beverage omission(s) and substitution(s) in my child's school meals. Furthermore, should the school staff require additional information to clarify how to carry out the diet prescription or food omissions and substitutions; I hereby give permission for my child's physician/medical authority to provide any additional information necessary to clarify the diet prescription written on this form.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Phone Number

Date

Definition of Disability:

Federal regulations governing the Child Nutrition Programs provide that schools must make substitutions in breakfasts, lunches and afterschool snacks for students who are considered to have a disability and whose disability restricts their diet.

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a "person with a disability" means "any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment." The term "physical or mental impairment" includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as:

- Cancer
- Cerebral Palsy
- Drug addiction and alcoholism
- Emotional illness
- Epilepsy
- Food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy)
- Heart disease
- HIV
- Mental retardation
- Metabolic diseases, such as diabetes or phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Orthopedic, visual, speech and hearing impairments
- Specific learning disabilities
- Tuberculosis

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes the following conditions:

- Autism
- Deaf-blindness
- Deafness or other hearing impairments
- Emotional disturbance
- Mental retardation
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairments
- Other health impairments due to chronic or acute health problems, such as asthma, diabetes, nephritis, sickle cell anemia, a heart condition, epilepsy, rheumatic fever, hemophilia, leukemia, lead poisoning, or tuberculosis
- Specific learning disabilities
- Traumatic brain injury
- Visual impairment, including blindness which adversely affects a child's educational

Major life activities covered by this definition include caring for one's self, eating, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

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