

The Role of Food Service

Breakfast and lunchtime can present the most dangerous time of the day for students with food allergies that may result in severe life threatening reactions (anaphylactic reactions). For this reason, we strongly recommend that students with food allergies bring lunch and snacks from home. However, if the child is eligible to participate in the subsidized National School Breakfast and Lunch Program (free or reduced meals), Food Service must provide safe, alternative food substitutions when supported by a medical statement signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse that indicates that ingestion of particular food(s) may result in severe life-threatening reactions (anaphylactic reactions).

1. The Food Service Department shall be provided a medical statement completed and signed by the physician or advanced practice nurse that includes the following:
 - The student's diagnosis, including a description of the patient's medical or other special dietary needs that restrict the child's diet.
 - A list of food(s) to be omitted from the diet.
 - A list of food(s) that may be substituted (or a diet plan).
 - Any additional information to insure a safe meal for the student.
 - This documentation should be renewed annually and updated as the child's condition warrants.
2. Food Services will input all information provided on the medical statement in the PCS/Point of Sale computer program. This allows the food service personnel at the point of sale/serving to view information regarding food allergens for that student.
3. Any food product on the menu where all ingredients are not known or the food product is not labeled must never be served to a student with food allergies.
4. The Food Service employee assigned to the building where the student with food allergies attends is responsible for consulting with the building nurse and food services supervisors if ingredients in a food product are questionable or unknown.
5. On school days that a child has forgotten their lunch or inadvertently purchased a lunch that contains a food allergen, Food Service shall provide a safe, alternative lunch.