



Cherry Creek School District

Food and Nutrition Services

Special Dietary Needs Information for Parents and Guardians

Introduction

The Cherry Creek School District Food and Nutrition Services department is committed to ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals that support their academic success and overall well-being. For students with special dietary needs, we provide appropriate meal modifications in accordance with USDA regulations (7 CFR Part 15b).

Our goal is not only to accommodate documented medical dietary needs, but also to provide transparent nutrition information to help families make informed decisions. Meeting these needs requires a collaborative effort between families, students, Food and Nutrition Services staff, and Health Services personnel.

Please carefully review the following guidelines to help us meet your child's dietary requirements effectively.

Food Allergy and Menu Resources

For families of children with special diet needs, please review the two options listed below:

1. Submit the Medical Statement for Meal Modification

- Required for any special diet or food allergy-related meal modification.
- Once received, a personalized menu plan will be developed collaboratively by the Special Diets Supervisor, kitchen staff, and parents/guardians.

2. Use Menu Tools for Non-Life-Threatening Preferences or Allergies

- Access detailed menus and allergen information online through [MealViewer](#) or via the MealViewer app for iOS and Android.
- Menu resources include:
 - Full ingredient descriptions
 - Nutrition facts
 - Allergen content (Major 9 allergens)
 - Carbohydrate counts
 - A La Carte Snack Lists

Additional Notes

- Ingredient lists are based on manufacturer-provided information and are accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, they are not guaranteed, and families should verify ingredients directly with the special diets supervisor.

- Menu items may change without notice, and substitutions may be necessary. For example, a Soft Beef Taco contains milk if cheese is included, but may be safe for those with a milk allergy if the cheese garnish is omitted.
- Severe or complex allergies requiring custom meals should be addressed through the full meal modification process described below.

Meal Modification Process

If your child requires meal modifications due to a medical condition, please follow these steps:

1. Complete the Medical Statement for Meal Modification Form

- Available on the [Cherry Creek Schools Food and Nutrition Services website](#) or by calling 720-886-7180.
- Must be completed and signed by a licensed medical authority (MD, DO, APN with prescription authority, or PA).
- Incomplete forms may delay the start of the meal modification process.

2. Submit the Completed Form

- Send to:
Maurene Beamer, RD, SNS
Special Diets Supervisor
Email: mbeamer@cherrycreekschools.org
Fax: 720-886-7171

3. Review and Confirmation

- The Special Diets Supervisor will review the request and follow up with the parent or guardian within seven business days of receiving the completed form.
- Until you receive confirmation that your child's menu plan is ready, please provide meals from home.

4. Menu Plan Implementation

- If necessary, a written menu plan will be developed and shared with school kitchen staff.
- Kitchen managers will coordinate with the student and family to minimize disruptions.
- Implementation instructions will be kept on file at the school.
- Collaboration with the student's 504 Plan team may occur, if appropriate.

5. Requirement for Meal Modifications

- Modifications will only be provided if a valid Medical Statement for Meal Modification is on file.

Important Considerations

- **Milk Substitutions:**

A non-dairy beverage may be offered for students with a documented lactose intolerance or dairy allergy (with a signed medical statement on file). Note: milk is not required for a reimbursable meal if other USDA components are selected appropriately. Free water is available in every cafeteria.

- **Allergy Awareness:**

Cherry Creek School District is an allergy-aware environment but not allergen-free. We cannot guarantee the complete absence of allergens.

- **Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Sesame and Cross-Contamination:**

While we do not serve peanut, tree nut, or sesame-containing items as part of reimbursable meals, products may be processed in facilities that handle these allergens. Staff are trained in food safety and cross-contact prevention, but we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment.

- **A La Carte Items and Labels:**

Please review labels for all a la carte and packaged foods carefully and consult with the special diets supervisor when needed.

Contact Information

For questions or assistance with special dietary needs, please contact:

Maurene Beamer, RD, SNS

Special Diets Supervisor

Phone: 720-886-7180

Email: mbeamer@cherrycreekschools.org