

25-26 TUSD SPED Meal Service Guidance

All students, including students with disabilities (SWDs), are required to eat their meals in the cafeteria. State meal service requirements indicate that students must be offered healthy choices. Furthermore, SWDs that are enrolled in separate, special day classes, receive social benefits from interacting with their typically developing peers during lunch time. *Limited exceptions will be considered to support individual student needs.

For students with disabilities that have difficulty eating in the cafeteria:

- consider permitting students to wear headphones or other noise reducing devices in the cafeteria
- Work with a behaviorist to make behavior supports available in the cafeteria (i.e. social stories, token reinforcement, etc.)
- If needed, allow students to eat in an alternate location, such as an outside picnic table. Work with behaviorist to fade the need for the alternate eating location. Students should still pick up their food via the food service line if possible.
- Discuss and document the need for other meal accommodations in the IEP

*It is important that all students come through the serving line and make their own selections. However, we understand that there are some cases in which students cannot come to the cafeteria. In these cases, the IEP team should discuss and document this area of need and any accommodation that is required to provide the student with access. For students that are not able to come through the serving line, it is important that they get to make meal choices based on the day's options.

To pick up meals on a student's behalf, a staff member will need to submit an order form (weekly or monthly) to site cafeteria staff based on the student's selections. Cafeteria staff will package the items selected by the student. Please note, in order for the meal to be prepared, it must contain all required components. Specifically, a selection must be made in each section of the order form.

**PK students will need to come through the serving line or work with a program administrator to procure meals/snacks for their program elsewhere. There are no meal order forms for PK students.