
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**AUX-2****SECTION: Auxiliary Services****SUBJECT: Cafeteria Operations – Students with Medical Disabilities 07-01-24**

Accommodating Students with Medical Disabilities and Special Dietary Needs

Nederland ISD Child Nutrition Department recognizes the need to accommodate students with medical disabilities and special dietary needs. Accommodations will be provided for reimbursable meals at no additional charge, snacks, and a la carte sales when a student's disability restricts his/her diet and is **supported by a medical statement signed by a medical authority who is licensed by the State of Texas to write medical prescriptions.**

Medical Statement for students with Disabilities:

The household must provide a written medical statement by a medical authority licensed to write prescriptions in Texas. A medical statement must include the following information in order for the NISD Child Nutrition staff to make a meal accommodation:

1. Explanation of the student's disability that includes a description that is sufficient to allow the Child Nutrition staff to understand how this condition restricts the student's diet and what major life activity is affected by the disability. {Note: The medical statement does not have to include the word disability or name the student's disability. Instead, it must provide sufficient information for the CE to determine that there is medical condition that is a disability and how that medical condition affects the student's participation in the meal program.}
2. Description of the accommodation needed: food items or ingredients to be omitted, special dietary supplements, food items or ingredients to be substituted and other accommodation information as appropriate. {Note: NISD is not required to provide name brand products as a substitute for a food item if another product with the same specifications is available. If the medical statement requires a name brand product, the parent or guardian and medical authority will be contacted to discuss an alternate substituted product with the same ingredients as the name brand product will meet the needs of the student.}

When a medical authority provides a written medical statement, the household is not required to provide an annual updated statement from the medical authority. However, the household is encouraged to inform the Child Nutrition Department of changes when necessary to best accommodate. The Child Nutrition Department Director, Manager or Secretary will contact the household to inquire of changes to the student's medical statement in efforts to keep our files current as necessary. Changes noted to a student's restrictions by medical authority, parent or guardian, will be documented on the **Meal Accommodation Tracking Form** and will be filed with the original medical statement. The changes will be noted with the medical authority name or parent or guardian first and last name, telephone number and date of conversation. In absence of a medical statement, the Physician's Diet Modification form found on NISD Child Nutrition webpage is acceptable. A medical authority licensed in the State of Texas must complete the Physician's Diet Modification form.

Severe Allergies Classified as a Medical Disability:

When a student has a severe allergy that is a medical disability, identified on a medical statement, NISD Child Nutrition Department will provide a safe, non-allergic meal to the student in adherence to the medical statement provided, at the best of our ability. To do so, the medical statement must clearly prescribe the guidelines for avoiding, omitting and substituting all food items and ingredients associated with the allergen.

Ingredient labels and nutrition facts of meals are available at www.schoolcafe.com. Families, nurses and students are able to click on the menu for the day and select the menu item of choice to view the nutrition facts and ingredients list. This will help with identifying allergens for families to determine items to avoid an allergic reaction. Child Nutrition staff attend annual training on the signs to identify if a student presents with a food allergic reaction and necessary steps to adhere to if a food allergic reaction occurs in the meal service area.

Additional Meals:

When nutrition services are required under a student's individualized education program (IEP), school officials must include school food service staff early on and throughout the process of making decisions regarding special meals or modifications to meals. It is important that all recommendations and meal accommodations or changes to existing orders documented in writing to minimize misunderstandings and shared with the Child Nutrition Department. Schools must maintain copies of the documentation on file.

Texture Modification:

For students with medical disabilities who require modifications in the texture of food items served (such as chopped, ground, pureed foods or nutrient supplements), instructions in the form of a medical statement indicating the appropriate food texture and meal preparation to meet the texture is required. Written instructions from the household are acceptable until medical statement is submitted. For students receiving special education, the texture modification should be included in the student's individualized education program (IEP) and/or in the student's file. NISD Child Nutrition will not be able to accommodate with school blenderized formulas for tube feedings. Commercial nutritive formulas prescribed by a licensed medical authority and specially designed for tube feedings are advised in such cases.

The Physician's Diet Modification form is available on the NISD Child Nutrition webpage, with the school nurse and the child nutrition manager. Completed forms must be submitted to the school nurse, child nutrition manager or the Child Nutrition Director located at the NISD Administration Building in the Child Nutrition Department. Households are encouraged to make contact with the Child Nutrition Department to verify the form received.