



Guidelines for: Food Allergies and Certificate of Disability for Special Dietary Needs

Milk Intolerance:

- **Statement from a parent/legal guardian or licensed medical professional** identifying the student's milk intolerance is acceptable. (Juice or water as a beverage will be substituted.)
- Update yearly.

Food Allergies:

- Food allergies are **not** typically defined as a disability. However, a life threatening (anaphylactic) reaction, severe food allergy should be considered a disability. *See below*
- Students with Food Allergies that eliminate broad food groups may need a **Certificate of Disability** https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3173/Bentonville/2200684/2 - Certification of Disability Form-Cafeteria 2018.pdf to support menu substitutions *unless* they have an **Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan (IHP)**.
- Food allergies must be **confirmed by a licensed medical professional** and must be **supported with a physician's statement that should include medical and dietary information**.
- Food allergies must be specific and clearly defined so that the wellbeing of the student is ensured.
- **Update yearly: Prior to the start of each school year**, the student's parents/guardians should provide the school with a **signed statement from a licensed physician**.
- Food Allergy information should remain current if a student out grows a food allergy the school nurse should be notified.

Food Intolerance:

- Food intolerance, such as Gluten, requires a Certificate of Disability-which parent and doctor must complete and sign

Certificate of Disability:

- Use this form in cases that involve
 1. **anaphylactic reactions,**
 2. **prescribed meal patterns,**
 3. **menu substitutions,**
 4. **texture modifications**
 5. **circumstances with extremely limited diets**
- **A Certificate of Disability is required** to properly serve a student.
 - Students that have been identified with a disability must have a **Certificate of Disability** on file *unless* they have a completed and doctor signed **Feed Plan** or **Anaphylaxis Plan**.
 - Certificate of Disability Form must be filled out by the **parent or guardian and a licensed medical professional** (ANP, MD, DO, PA).
 - A meeting will be required between the parents and the schools to work through the details and further understand the dietary needs of the student.
 - Detailed information must be included on the form to identify:
 1. Special feeding needs,
 2. Texture modifications,
 3. Food choices that must be omitted,
 4. Acceptable substitutions to the menu,
 5. Details related to the service of meals at the school level for the student's diet*Simply stating a daily goal does not suffice – specifics are needed for the school's portion of the student's greater needs.*
- Based on the information from the USDA, the medical statement **does not have** to be renewed each year if there are no changes in the diet order. However, be sure to note and date any changes in the medical condition or diet order.