



# Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs

## Required Documentation



Goose Creek CISD adheres to the Texas Department of Agriculture guidelines for accommodating children with special dietary needs.

The Nutrition Services Department will accept either of the following as documentation of a special dietary need:

1. **Physician's Request for Special Dietary Accommodations Form (preferred).**

The form must:

- Be signed by a licensed physician
- Identify if the child has a medical disability and/or food allergy
- Include an explanation of why the disability and/or allergy restricts the child's diet
- Identify the major life activity affected by the medical disability
- List the food or foods to be voided from the child's diet and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted

2. **Medical Statement for Children with Special Dietary Needs**

- Must be signed by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practical nurse
- Identifies the medical condition that restricts the child's diet
- Lists the food or foods to be voided from the child's diet and the food or choice of foods to be substituted

**SPECIFIC PHYSICIAN'S REQUESTS MUST BE DETAILED ON THE SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION.**

**THIS DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL NURSE FOR VERIFICATION, WHO WILL THEN FORWARD A COPY TO NUTRITION SERVICES. DIETARY ACCOMMODATIONS BEGIN ONCE NUTRITION SERVICES RECEIVES AND PROCESSES THE REQUEST.**

**NOTE:** Dietary accommodations that require purchasing specific items may not be immediately available. It can take up to 4 weeks to receive deliveries of special order items.

**For more information contact:**

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## Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs

### Distribution of Responsibility

#### PARENTS

- Provide a physician's statement to the school nurse, making sure that it includes all required information as listed on page 1.
- Provide updated physician's orders as necessary. Give the school nurse a written statement signed by the physician when accommodations are no longer needed. Dietary accommodations cannot be changed prior to receiving updated documentation from the physician.
- Work with the school nurse and/or Registered Dietitian to review and return modified menus as soon as possible.
  - *NOTE: Modified menus will not be implemented until approval is received.*
- **Physician's diet orders should be renewed every school year to assure that the student's needs are met as accurately as possible. If possible, please provide an updated physician's statement to the school nurse during the summer, prior to the beginning of school.**

#### SCHOOL NURSE

- Fax or e-mail the physician's orders to the Nutrition Services Department, (281)420-4632, Attn: Special Diets - Chelsea Arkadie.
- Serve as liaison between the Nutrition Services Department and the parent to gather needed information and physician documentation.

#### NUTRITION SERVICES

- What we can do:
  - Provide reasonable accommodations that meet the physician ordered dietary restrictions, to the best of our ability/knowledge.
  - Work with the parent and school nurse to adjust the diet as updated physician's orders are received.
  - Students who do not have a medical disability will be handled on a case by case basis.
- What we are unable to do:
  - Interpret, revise, or change a diet order for students with disabilities
  - Provide dietary accommodations for students without a valid medical condition
  - Provide dietary accommodations without the proper physician's documentation
  - Provide fruit juice as a milk substitute