

Baldwin County School Nutrition

Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs

If you have difficulty communicating with us or understanding this information because you do not speak English or have a disability, please let us know. Contact (Susan.Nelson@Baldwin.k12.ga.us or Susan Nelson 478-457-3315). Free language assistance or other aids and services are available upon request.

Accommodating Students with Disabling Special Dietary Needs

Schools participating in a federal Child Nutrition Program (School Lunch, School Breakfast or After School Snack Program) are required to make accommodations for children who are unable to eat the school meals because of a disability, 7 CFR, Part 15b, that restricts their diet. In order to make modifications or substitutions to the school meal, schools must have a written Medical Statement on file that is signed by a licensed physician or other State licensed health care professional authorized to write medical prescriptions under State law. The statement must identify:

- The child's disability or medical condition
 - An explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet
 - The major life activity affected by the disability
 - The food(s) to be omitted from the child's diet
 - The food or choice of foods that must be provided as the substitute
- * Signature of medical authority and date
- ** Only a physician can declare if a student has a disability.**

Accommodating Students with Non-Disabling Special Dietary Needs

The school food authority may, at their discretion, make substitutions for students who have a special dietary need, but do not meet the definition of disability. Examples include food intolerances or allergies that do not cause life threatening reactions. The decision to accommodate a student's special dietary need can be determined on a case-by case basis, however, the school should remain consistent with accommodating special dietary needs. In order to make modifications or substitutions to the school meal, schools must have a written Medical Statement signed by a recognized medical authority identifying the following:

- An identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet
- The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet
- The food or choice of foods to be substituted In Georgia, a recognized medical authority includes a physician, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

To ensure accurate meal service, parents are requested to:

- Communicate the student's special dietary need to school staff when the student transfers or promotes to a different school or district.
- Introduce student to school nutrition manager and identify which meals will be eaten at school (breakfast, lunch, after-school snack).
- Communicate any dietary change as prescribed by medical authority.
- Notify teachers, principals, and/or after-school activity sponsors of your child's allergy/disability.

Baldwin County School Nutrition does not make meal accommodations based on personal preference or religious convictions. It is our goal to offer enough variety in the planned menu that our students have ample choices, which not only allow them to select a balanced meal but also one that fits within their personal preferences.

Procedures: 8/2/2018

BY: Susan Nelson, School Nutrition Director