



# ANTHONY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Child Nutrition Department

### REQUESTING SPECIAL DIETARY MODIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS

This form allows you to disclose whether your child has a food allergy, severe food allergy or medical condition that you believe should be disclosed to the District in order to enable the district to take necessary precautions for your child's safety. The procedure below was developed to ensure that students receive adequate nutrition and that schools have the equipment and supplies necessary to meet their needs.

The District must request, at the time of enrollment, that the parent or guardian of each student attending the District disclose the student's food allergies or medical condition requiring dietary modification. This form will satisfy this requirement. Additional information regarding food allergies, including maintaining records related to a student's food allergies, can be found at FD and FL.

1. The first step in the process of requesting special dietary modifications is to print the "Special Diet Request Form" from the Child Nutrition Department website: <http://www.anthonvisd.net/childnutrition/> or request it from your school campus, nurse or Child Nutrition Program Manager.
2. The Special Diet Request Form must then be completed by the parent/guardian (Part A) and by a licensed physician or medical authority (Part B). The completed form should then be either faxed to the Child Nutrition Department or turned in to the Child Nutrition Program Manager. Special diet requests will be reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a Registered Dietitian and other nutrition professionals.
3. Please allow a minimum of 10 work/week days for the Special Diet Request Form to be processed. If your child has specific nutritional needs, please provide him or her with a nutritious breakfast and lunch until the arrangements for the special diet request have been made. Upon completion of the specialized menus, they will be forwarded to the cafeteria manager.
4. In an effort to meet the student's current needs, the Special Diet Request Form should be updated yearly.

#### In Cases of Food Allergy

Generally, children with food allergies or intolerances do not have a disability as defined under either Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or Part B of IDEA. **The Child Nutrition department may, but is not required to, make food substitutions for them.**

However, when in the licensed physician's assessment food allergies may result in severe, life-threatening (anaphylactic) reactions, the child's condition would meet the definition of "disability," and the substitutions prescribed by the licensed physician must be made.

#### Physician's Statement for Children with Disabilities

USDA regulations 7 CFR Part 15b require substitutions or modifications in school meals for children whose disabilities restrict their diets. A child with a disability must be provided substitutions in foods when that need is supported by a statement signed by a licensed physician. The physician's statement **must** identify:

- the child's disability
- 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 and/or the food or choice of foods that must be substituted
- specific substitutions needed must be specified in a statement signed by a licensed physician

#### Menu Modifications for Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities who require changes to the basic meal are required to provide documentation with accompanying instructions from a licensed physician. This is required to ensure that the modified meal is reimbursable, and to ensure that any meal modifications meet nutrition standards which are medically appropriate for the child. **Schools are not required** to make modifications to meals based on food choices of a family or child regarding a healthful diet.

#### Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, a "person with a disability" means any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment.

The term "physical or mental impairment" includes many diseases and conditions, a few of which may be orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, metabolic diseases, such as diabetes or PKU, food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy), mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction and alcoholism, specific learning disabilities, HIV disease and tuberculosis.

Major life activities covered by this definition include caring for one's self, eating, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. When nutrition services are required under a child's IEP, school officials need to make sure that child nutrition staff are involved early on in the decisions regarding special meals.

The District will maintain the confidentiality of the information provided above and may disclose the information to teachers, school counselors, school nurses, and other appropriate school personnel only within the limitations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and District policy. [See FL]

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