

Instructions for Completing Food Allergy/Disability Substitution Request Form

Students participating in the National School Lunch Program who are new to Eagle Mountain Independent School District (ISD) or newly diagnosed with a medical condition or disability and who require a special diet must print and submit a Food Allergy/Disability Substitution Request Form. The information on this form is confidential and to be used for special dietary needs only.

Parents: Please read these instructions carefully.

1. For medical conditions or allergies that do not require a change to the menu, parents or guardians may complete the "Allergy Anaphylaxis Form" and return it to the school nurse. An example of this might be an allergy to watermelon. A note is placed into the student's Child Nutrition account stating that they have an allergy to watermelon. The note pops up at the point-of-sale in the cafeteria and alerts the staff that the student cannot have watermelon.
2. For medical disabilities requiring menu substitutions that cannot be fulfilled using the regular cycle menu, a student may need special dietary modifications and a specialized menu created for the student. The first step in the process of requesting special dietary modifications is to print the "Food Allergy/Disability Substitution Request Form" from the school district website www.emsisd.com on the Child Nutrition Department page or on the Health Services page. A form can also be requested from the school nurse or the Registered Dietitian.
3. The "Food Allergy/Disability Substitution Request Form" must be completed by the parent/guardian and by a licensed physician or medical authority. The completed form should then be faxed to the district or emailed to our Child Nutrition Registered Dietitian, Darlene Lopez at dlopez@emsisd.net
4. Please allow at least 2 weeks processing time once the completed forms are returned. This is to ensure that our Registered Dietitian is able to review all food labels and ingredient statements for your student's individual needs. 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.
5. Please submit forms by August 9th in order to ensure your child is able to be provided with a modified menu on the first day of school. This gives our dietitian a 2-week time frame to create a menu for your child.
6. If your child had dietary modifications during the 2022-2023 school year, the Registered Dietitian will contact you with a renewal letter in June or July to ensure our staff is aware of any changes that might be required.
7. For students with dietary modifications during the 2022-2023 school year, modifications will resume and be available at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

Menu Modifications 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

- x an explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet
- x the major life activity affected by the disability
- x 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

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

When nutrition services are required under a child's IEP, school officials are required to make sure that child nutrition staff are involved early on in the decisions regarding special meals.

Serving the Special Dietary Needs of Children with Disabilities

Children without disabilities but with special dietary needs requiring food substitutions or modifications may request that the Child Nutrition department meet their special nutrition needs.

- x Special diet requests for children without disabilities will be evaluated on a case by case basis. A school is encouraged to accommodate reasonable requests, but is not required to do so. In cases where the meal pattern does not need to be changed to meet the accommodation, a note will be placed in the student's account to alert staff to the allergy or intolerance. Requests for disability related meal accommodations must be made in writing by a parent or guardian or an authorized medical authority.

Completed forms can be mailed to the address below or emailed as an attachment to dlopezmonge@emsnet.net. Please call the Child Nutrition Department with any questions. Thank you and we look forward to working with you to ensure a successful school year for your student!

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