

School Nutrition Program Responsibility

- Provide food substitutions for students according to Medical Statement. The school food service staff may not revise or change a diet prescription or medical order.
- Provide training to cafeteria personnel on how to properly accommodate students with special dietary needs. Maintain documentation of this training.
- Communicate with parents, staff, and medical authorities regarding diet modifications.
- Maintain Medical Statement on each student with a special dietary need. Diet orders are not required to be renewed on a yearly basis, however, the Georgia Department of Education recommends that you confirm, on a yearly basis, the diet order has not changed. If there are any changes to the diet, a new Medical Statement is required.
- If the school is opting to make a milk substitute available for non-disabling dietary needs, research products to ensure they meet the USDA nutrient standards for a milk substitute. Notify the Georgia Department of Education, School Nutrition Division if you are making milk substitutes available for non-disabling special needs.

School Nurse Responsibility

- Collaborate with School Nutrition Program Director, school staff, parents, and physician to appropriately share pertinent information, obtain a copy of Medical Statement, and accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Develop medical plan of care as appropriate (Individualized Healthcare Plan).

Other Federal regulations

Based upon Federal laws that prohibit discrimination and ensure equal access to education, some students may have instructions for accommodating their special need written into a 504 Plan or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Typically, a team consisting of the school professionals and the parents collaborate to develop these plans. If the 504 Plan or IEP involves special dietary needs, the school nutrition program director should be involved.

Additional Resources:

USDA's Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs title School Nutrition Programs:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/guidance/specialdietaryneeds.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 32-2015: Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP32_CACFP13_SFSP15-2015os.pdf

Medical Association of Georgia. Georgia Prescribers Chart.

<http://www.mag.org/sites/default/files/clovis/Georgia-prescribers-chart.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 36-2013: Guidance Related to the ADA Amendments Act

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/SP36-2013os.pdf>

USDA Memo SP07-2010: Q & As: Milk Substitute for Children with Medical or Special Dietary Needs:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/SP07_CACFP04_SFSP05-2010os.pdf

National Food Service Management Institute's Meeting Children's Special Food and Nutrition Needs in Child Nutrition Programs:

<http://nfsmi-web01.nfsrni.org/Resource/veryinteresting.aspx?ID=89>

Food Allergy Research & Education: <http://www.foodallergy.org/>

Additional Contact Information:

- Contact the Georgia Department of Education, School Nutrition Division, with questions regarding accommodating students with special dietary needs in the School Meals Programs at 404-519-9210.