



# ABC Unified Nutrition Services

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## Policy for Special Meal Accommodations & Food Allergies/ Disabilities

USDA Regulation 7 CFR Part 15b requires 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 signed statement from a licensed physician.** If a child requires a special meal accommodation due to a food allergy/intolerance and/or a diagnosed disability, it is the **responsibility of the child's parent/guardian** to notify ABC USD Nutrition Services Department of the child's situation by submitting **a completed Medical Statement to Request Meal Accommodations form** (must be signed by a recognized medical authority).

### **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, and the school food service 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.

**In case of severe allergies (i.e. food allergies considered a disability) the only allergen-free meal substitution available is an entrée of rice and beans.** Other meal accommodations (i.e. related to physical disabilities) are not guaranteed and are determined on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Nutrition Services Department to discuss your options.

**Please note that children diagnosed with a food allergy that does not qualify as a disability will not be eligible to receive any food substitutions and/or accommodations.** Consequently, it will be the child's parent/guardian's RESPONSIBILITY to review our department's list of "Allergens & Food Sensitivity" (available at [www.abcafe.us](http://www.abcafe.us)) with their child and inform them which foods they should avoid when consuming school meals. Unfortunately, our staff is unable to monitor a child's food choices due to the volume of children at each site. This provision covers those children who have food intolerances or allergies, but do not have life-threatening reactions (anaphylactic reactions) when exposed to the food(s) to which they have problems.

### **Summary of Parent/ Guardian Responsibilities pertaining to student allergies/disabilities:**

- Submit a completed **"Medical Statement to Request Meal Accommodations" form to the Nutrition Services department (must be signed by a physician).**
- Review our department's list of "Allergens & Food Sensitivity" with your child and inform them which foods they should avoid when consuming school meals.
- Inform your child's school in writing of your child's allergies.
- Notify teachers, supervisors or after school activities/programs, and/or PTA/field trips, regarding your child's allergy/ disability.

**Please contact us at (562) 926-5566 ext. 21275 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.**