

St. Mary's Springs Academy School Special Dietary Needs Policy



S T. M A R Y' S S P R I N G S
Academy

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OVERVIEW

St. Mary's Springs Academy aims to provide all participating students with nutritious meals through participation in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. This includes ensuring students with disabilities as defined under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations 7 CFR Part 15b requires the school district will make reasonable modifications to accommodate students with disabilities including providing special dietary accommodations to students with a disability which restricts their diet.

The special dietary accommodation coordinator shall be primarily responsible for managing special dietary accommodations within the food service program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator

Mary Karrmann, Food Service Director, 255 County Road K, FDL WI 54937, 920.322.8075, mkarrmann@smsacademy.com.

504 Coordinator

Heather Reilly, Director of Pupil Services, 255 County Road K, FDL WI 54937. 920.322.8045, hreilley@smsacademy.org

Hearing Official

Greg Brunette, Director of Business Operations, 255 County Road K, FDL, WI 54937, 920.322.8078, gbrunette@smsacademy.org

ACCESS TO FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

It is the policy of the school district to ensure that it does not discriminate against any person based on a protected status or classification as identified by law or herein in admission to or access to programs, services or activities offered by the district. The school district will ensure that individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs and have appropriate access to facilities and areas where meals are provided.

REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL DIETARY ACCOMMODATION

Medical Statement

A parent/guardian requesting special dietary accommodations for a student with a disability that restricts the diet must provide the Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs signed by a state authorized medical authority. The request must contain the following information:

- An explanation of how the student's physical or mental impairment restricts the diet
- The food(s) to be avoided
- The food(s) to be substituted

State Authorized Medical Authority

A state authorized medical authority is a licensed health care professional who is authorized to write medical prescriptions under state law. This could include a physician, dentist, optometrist, podiatrist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.

Incomplete Medical Statements

If a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs is unclear or lacks sufficient detail, the special dietary accommodation coordinator or school district's healthcare team may seek appropriate clarification from the parent/guardian or the healthcare practitioner so that a safe meal can be provided.

Where to Submit

A special dietary accommodation for a student who has a disability that restricts the student's diet must be supported by a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs, which should be submitted to the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator: Mary Karrmann, Food Service Director, 255 County Road K, FDL 54937, 920.322.8075, mkarrmann@smsacademy.com.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan

A student with a disability may have an IEP or 504 plan that requires specific instruction, services, or accommodation related to the student's nutritional needs. If a student's IEP or 504 plan contains the same information that is required on a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs, then it is not necessary to obtain and submit a separate Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs.

PERSONAL REQUESTS

When a request for a special dietary accommodation is not supported by an authorized Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs or included in a

student's IEP or 504 plan, the school district cannot provide modified meals that are not in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Program requirements.

Fluid Milk Substitution

The school district shall have no legal obligation to accommodate a student's or a parent's/guardian's preference for a fluid milk substitute if there is no Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs on file. However, the district will assist the student in choosing a reimbursable meal through offer versus serve (OVS). Lactose free milk option is available daily upon request. A Medical Statement for that substitution is not necessary.

Religious Reason

The school district shall have no legal obligation to accommodate a student's or parent's/guardian's request for accommodations based on religious requests. However, the district will assist your student in choosing a reimbursable meal through offer versus serve (OVS).

Personal Request

The school district shall have no legal obligation to accommodate a student's or parent's/guardian's general health, nutrition, or food preferences. However, the district will assist your student in choosing a reimbursable meal through offer versus serve (OVS).

IMPLEMENTATION AND DISCONTINUATION

Review

Upon receipt of a request for a special dietary accommodation, the special dietary accommodation coordinator shall review the request to ensure it is supported as required by federal law and district policy.

Implementation

When the need for a special dietary accommodation is supported by a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs signed by a state authorized medical authority, the district will offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the student's disability. Following USDA Child Nutrition Program regulations, the school district may consider factors such as cost and efficiency and is not required to prepare a specific meal, provide a specific brand of food, or provide a meal beyond the meals provided to other students.

For students who have an IEP or 504 plan that requires specific food related accommodations, the school district shall provide the accommodation as required by law, seeking clarifying medical information, as necessary.

A special dietary request will be approved and implemented upon submission of a completed authorized Medical Statement.

Notification

Parents/guardians will be notified of clarifications needed or approval of a special dietary request.

Student Absence

If a student receiving a special dietary accommodation is absent or does not wish to participate in school lunch on a day an accommodation is planned, contact the special dietary accommodation coordinator by 9:00 a.m. the same day.

Renewing A Special Dietary Request

An authorized Medical Statement does not need to be updated annually. However, the special dietary accommodation coordinator may annually seek clarification or updates on special dietary requests.

Discontinuation of a Special Dietary Request

A special dietary request or part of a request may be discontinued by a parent/guardian by submitting the request in writing to the special dietary accommodation coordinator.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The school district staff will collaborate with parents/guardians and the student's healthcare team to appropriately share pertinent information regarding a student's food related disability with the goal of providing a safe environment.

Allergy Related Disability Strategies

The school district shall establish a method of ensuring that relevant information is shared with all supervising persons of a student identified with a life-threatening allergy.

The school district shall establish preventative strategies to minimize allergen risks and provide a safe environment for all students. Strategies may include:

- Carefully monitoring students with allergies.
- Encouraging students not to exchange food or utensils with other students.

- Washing surfaces, toys and equipment clean of allergen containing foods to the extent practicable.
- Provide staff updates, as necessary.
- Encouraging parents/guardians to instruct their children in how to avoid contact with substances to which they are allergic.

Carbohydrate Counting

School food service staff will provide menus, recipes, product labels, and planned portion sizes for various menu items. The student's parents/guardians, health care team or school healthcare team should use this information to determine carbohydrate totals to help ensure a safe meal and proper medication dosage.

Disclaimer

Nutrition information is accurate to the best of our knowledge; however, product substitutions or manufacturer formulas changes can occur. Ingredients and menu items are subject to change. Please consult a medical professional for assistance in planning or treating medical conditions.

COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION

Parents and guardians have the right to examine the record and file a grievance in situations where a requested modification is not granted. Schools or districts should follow their procedures for grievances and complaints alleging civil rights discrimination (including Wisconsin protected classes) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) **fax:** (202) 690-7442 or
- (3) **email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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