



Johnson City Schools Food and Nutrition Services

To: Parents/Guardians
From: Karen J. McGahey, Food and Nutrition Service Director
Date: 2019-20
RE: Special Diet Requests

The School Food and Nutrition Services Department allows all students equal opportunity to participate in school meals benefits. The department has a specific process for handling Special Diet requests for accommodations for food allergy disabilities. These disabilities are defined as those that affect major life activities of eating and major bodily functions of digestive and respiration. Lifestyle dietary choices are not considered a disability and are, therefore, not accommodated.

Please remember that most meals served in Johnson City schools have options. Students are not required to take all items offered and may decline an item or choose an offered item without any special diet request. Meal accommodations may not mirror the regular menu options.

A Special Diet Request form is only used if a parent requests consideration for a food item to be replaced or substituted or if the parents want the cafeteria to monitor specifically what is on a child's tray due to a disability.

It is important that the disability/allergy is noted along with what foods are to be omitted as well as what foods should be substituted in its place.

If you want consideration of adaptation to a child's meals, please have the form submitted to the cafeteria fully completed with all required medical signatures. **A new form does not need to be completed each school year, however, allergic responses can change or children can outgrow certain intolerances. As long as the form is on file, our staff is required to abide by its directives.**

Families can also request monitoring only for the problem food or food to be avoided due to religious preference if no food is to be substituted.

A comment will be noted in the child's computerized food service account to alert the manager/cashiers of the issue as the student goes through the cafeteria serving line. Please remember that while the staff tries to be aware and alert to each child, there is no way for us to guarantee the contents of all foods for all children. Please monitor the menus, work with your child, and if in doubt, please ask questions and/or provide food from home. Menus can be found at http://www.schoolmenus.org/Johnson_City.htm

An epi-pen is located in each cafeteria in a special container. The school also may have precautions in place for specific seating arrangements for certain types of severe food allergy. Thank you.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

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