

Dear Doctor,

In recent years, we have seen increasing emphasis on the importance of ensuring that children with disabilities have the same opportunities as other children to receive an education and education-related benefits, such as school meals. Subsequently, Congress has passed several comprehensive Acts or laws, which broaden, and extends civil rights protections for Americans with disabilities.

One effect of these laws has been an increase in the number of children with disabilities who are being educated in regular school programs. In some cases, the disability may prevent the child from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

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 a statement signed by a licensed medical physician supports that need. The physician's statement must identify;

- ✓ The child's disability
- ✓ The major life activity affected by the disability
- ✓ An explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet
- ✓ The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted

Generally, children with food allergies or intolerances do not have a disability as defined in any of the Acts or laws, and the school food service may, but is not required to, make food substitutions for them. However, when food allergies result in severe, life-threatening (anaphylactic) reactions, the child's condition would meet the definition of "disability" and the substitutions prescribed by the licensed, medical physician must be made.

Upon the parent's request, enclosed is a blank medical statement for you to complete for the following student currently enrolled in one of our schools. The statement must be completed in its entirety. Also enclosed is a copy of the "DEFINITION OF HANDICAPPED PERSON", CFR Subtitle A, Section 15b.3 Definitions, for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact Missy Eggert at 218-338-4079 ext 402.

Respectfully,
Missy Eggert, Parkers Prairie Elementary