

# FOOD ALLERGIES

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 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), and the school food service may, but is not required to, make food substitutions for them.

However, when 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 a licensed physician must be made.

Each special dietary request must be supported by a statement, which explains the food substitution that is requested. **The form must be signed by a recognized medical authority.**

The medical statement must include:

- An identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet;
- The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet
- The food or choice of foods to be substituted

The school food service may make food substitutions, at their discretion, for individual children who do not have a disability, but who are medically certified as having a special medical or dietary need.

Such determinations are only made on a case-by-case basis. 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.

Each special dietary request **must** be supported by a medical statement as mentioned.

Forms can be obtained from the school office or food service department.

It is very important that the appropriate personnel are notified and the proper medical statement is completed to address any request.