

Serving Students with Special Diets and Food Allergies

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Code of Federal Regulations Title 7, Part 15b, requires school districts to accommodate the diet restrictions of students with disabilities. The Hemet Unified Nutrition Services department in accordance with the USDA guidelines will provide special meal accommodations for those students with bona fide medical disability as indicated by a completed Meal Accommodation Form signed by a physician.

Meal Accommodation forms should include the following information to ensure they are helpful in providing the Nutrition Services department with the appropriate information to appropriately accommodate the student.

- Description of the student's disability
- Description of the student's major life activity affected
- Description of how the disability restricts the student's diet
- Foods to be omitted from the student's diet
- Foods to be substituted for omitted foods in the student's diet

The definition of a person with disabilities is: Any person who has physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment. Major life activities covered by this definition include caring for oneself, eating, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

Food Allergies:

For those students with food allergies or intolerances that do not rise to the level of a disability, the Nutrition Services Department may make substitutions, but are not required to do so.

However, if a licensed physician states that the food allergy may result in a severe, life threatening reaction (i.e. anaphylactic), the child's condition would meet the definition of a disability, and substitutions prescribed by the licensed physician will be made.

If your child is in need of a modified diet due to disability, a Medical Statement signed by a recognized medical authority which explains the food substitution, must support each special dietary request. We must have this statement fully completed and on file in order to accommodate your child's special dietary needs. You can acquire a copy of the Medical Statement on the Hemet Unified Nutrition Services page

Hemet Unified works to provide all students, including those with special dietary needs, with well-balanced meals that not only offer students a variety of choices, but also meet or exceed nutritional guidelines.

If your child meets any of these criteria, please submit a Doctor's statement to the school cafeteria or it can be mailed to:

Nutrition Specialist
Hemet Unified School District
Nutrition Services Department
2075 Acacia Ave.
Hemet, CA 92545