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GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

ONE GAINESVILLE: We will inspire, nurture, challenge, and prepare our students.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is the goal of the Gainesville City School Nutrition Program to ensure that our students receive the safest and most appropriate food items on a daily basis. Students with special dietary needs who do not eat in the cafeteria do not have to submit the attached form.

If your child requires a special meal from the cafeteria, the "MEDICAL STATEMENT TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES IN THE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS" must be completed and returned to the School Nutrition Department or cafeteria.

Certain physical or mental impairments require meal modifications that do not follow the required Program meal pattern. In a disability situation, meal modifications outside the meal pattern are reimbursable, provided the request is supported by a medical statement signed by a State licensed healthcare professional.

The criteria for requesting a special diet:

- Any student whose licensed medical authority certifies that the student has special dietary needs and/or a severe, life-threatening (anaphylactic) reaction to a specific food or group of food may qualify for dietary modifications.
- Students who receive meal accommodations based on current specific dietary accommodations in their 504 Plan or IEP will receive those accommodations, but we do ask for the most current information as dietary needs change from time to time.
- Other dietary restrictions that allow for simple substitutions may be accommodated on a case by case basis (e.g. student with strawberry allergy may receive another fruit in its place). However, additional documentation, including a physician's signature may be required for the safety of the child.

When a signed medical statement is required (i.e. the modification does not meet meal pattern requirements), the medical statement must include:

- Information about the child's physical or mental impairment that is sufficient to allow the SFA to understand how it restricts the child's diet,
- An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's disability, and
- The food or foods to be omitted and recommended alternatives, in the case of a modified meal.

Special diet/meal modification requests will be reviewed in the order they are received; please allow time for processing. The School Nutrition Program will attempt to establish a plan that meets your student's needs using the foods available. A new GCSS form and/or form verification may be required each school year, and as we continue to receive updated guidance from USDA on this topic, we may ask for additional information.

Please be aware, we are not a nut free facility, nor can we guarantee the absence of nuts or nut by-products in the cafeteria.

If you have questions please contact me via email at Emily.house@gcssk12.net

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily House".

Emily House, M.Ed.
Gainesville City School Nutrition Coordinator
Rev. 5/29/2018