



Special Dietary Needs / Food Allergies

Clay County Schools' Food & Nutrition Services Department works hard to accommodate all children with special diet needs, with and without disabilities. According to USDA regulations, schools are not required to provide special meals to all children with diet restrictions. Accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis if supported and signed by a medical authority and only when appropriate and economically feasible.

Per USDA guidelines, schools must make special diet substitutions for students with a mental or physical disability. If there is a signed note from the doctor indicating the medical condition and substitutions to be made, accommodations are made. A parent/guardian must give the note to the school nurse, cafeteria manager, and to the county office. Doctor's notes are valid until the school or county office receives documentation that the special diet can be discontinued.

Schools also make menu substitutions for children with special dietary conditions unrelated to a disability (i.e. some food allergies), but again, a parent/guardian must present the school nurse, café manager or county office with a doctor's signed note. Food allergies are also valid until documentation is received, stating otherwise.

Contact [Elise Fenstermaker, RD, LD/N](#) for further information or assistance: (904) 529-4962

