

(Sample Parent Letter)

*MEAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Most children with disabilities have no special dietary needs. They are able to participate in the Child Nutrition Programs the same as all other children in the school. In some instances, however, children with disabilities may experience difficulty when chewing and swallowing, which would require that the physical characteristics of their foods be changed. Some children may need low-calorie meals, and others, high-calorie meals. Children with severe disabilities may need special dietary foods or a therapeutic diet.

Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to those children whose disability restricts their diet in such a way that they cannot fully participate in the food service program without some modification to the foods offered or the scheduled menu. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. This medical certification must contain the following:

1. Verification that the special meals are needed due to the student's disability, and
2. Recommendation/prescription for alternate foods and forms of foods needed to meet the student's special dietary needs.

If you have questions regarding the need for meal modifications, contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ for further information.

Sincerely,

**Note: Prior exhibit, 3543(s)**

Policy Amended: July 10, 1995