

Letter to Parent/Guardian
Explaining Requirements for Special Diet Instructions
Sumter School District Food Services
P.O. Box 909, Dalzell, SC 29040 (803) 499-5950

Dear Parent/Guardian:


You have indicated that your student has a special dietary need that requires modification of the school menu. Federal regulations require the school to receive written instructions from an appropriate medical authority before the school can modify your student's meals. A recognized medical authority must complete one of the following forms to document your student's current special dietary needs.

- **Request for Meal Accommodation Form:** This form helps the school provide meal modifications within the meal pattern requirements for students with a mental or physical impairment.
- **Medical Statement for Student Requiring Special Meal Accommodation:** This form is a request for meals that cannot be achieved within the federal meal pattern requirement for school meals. The form must be completed by a State Licensed Health Care Professional. The medical authority must list on the form all foods that are to be eliminated from the diet and foods that may be substituted.

To ensure that your student's dietary needs are met please return the completed medical statement within three days to Stacey Francis or Beth Dukes, P.O. Box 909, Dalzell, SC 29040.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Stacey Francis at Stacey.Francis@sumterschools.net or Beth Dukes at Beth.Dukes@sumterschools.net or please call (803) 499-5950.

Sincerely,


Stacey Francis
Director of Food Services

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits Discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Request for Meal Accommodation

This form may be used to request meal modifications for students who have a physical or medical impairment and participate in the National School Lunch & School Breakfast Programs. The district will work collaboratively with parents to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the School Meal Programs and receive program benefits. However, if the district is unable to accommodate your student's request within the meal pattern requirements; a *Medical Statement* completed by a State licensed Medical Professional will be needed (SP 59-2016).

Parent/Guardian:

Completing the *Request for Meal Accommodation* form helps the school provide meal modifications within the meal pattern requirements for students with a mental or physical impairment. Your participation in this process is very important and communication with the school team allows for advanced planning and preparation needed to provide the accommodation. The district is not required to provide a specific substitution (such as a particular brand name), but offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates your child's needs.

Name of Child:		Date of Birth:
Name of Parent/Guardian:		Telephone:
Address:	City:	State/Zip:
Email Address:	School Building Child Attends:	Grade:
Describe the student's physical or mental impairment:		
Specify any dietary restrictions or special instructions for meals:		
Signature of Parent/Guardian:		Date:
IMPORTANT: The only fluid cow's milk substitutions allowed by USDA are (1) Lactose-free fluid cow's milk or (2) a non-dairy beverage with a nutrient profile equivalent to fluid cow's milk as specified in federal regulations. To see the non-dairy beverages that meet the this requirement visit link to milk requirements		

Non-Discrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Medical Statement

Parent/Guardian: You have requested a meal accommodation for your child that cannot be achieved within the federal meal pattern requirements for school meals (SP 59-2016). Therefore, in order to meet your child's needs, this form must be completed and returned to the school. The form must be completed by a State Licensed Health Care Professional (Physician (MD or DO), Physician's Assistant (PA), Advance Practice Registered Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP), or Chiropractor. A Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist (LMNT) may also complete and sign when acting under the consultation of the licensed physician.

Name of Child:		Date of Birth:
Name of Parent/Guardian:		Telephone:
Address:	City:	State/Zip:
Email Address:	School Building Child Attends:	Grade:
Description of student's physical or mental impairment that restricts the diet:		
Specify any dietary restrictions or special instructions for meals:		
If applicable, list foods to omit:	If applicable, list foods to substitute:	
Texture Modifications:	Thickness Modifications:	
Signature of State Licensed Health Care Professional:	Name of referring physician working with LMNT (if applicable):	
Printed Name and Title:	Phone Number:	Date:

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