

Special Dietary Request Policy and Procedures

Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and The Americans Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits the discrimination of persons with disabilities in programs or activities funded by the federal government.

The USDA nondiscrimination regulation (7 CFR 15b) provides clarification that substitutions may be made to a regular meal for qualified persons with disabilities when the need has been documented by a licensed physician. The physician's statement must identify:

- The child's disability;
- An explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet;
- The major life activity affected by the disability;
- The food(s) to be omitted from the child's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted

Special Dietary Request Forms

Special dietary request forms can be found using the following link, or on the GPISD Foodservice website under "Special Diets."

[Special Diets](#)

Completed Special Dietary Request forms can be submitted to the school nurse. Please allow up to 48 hours for special dietary needs request to be fulfilled at the child's school.

[An updated GPISD Special Dietary Request form needs to be submitted and/or updated each school year. The form will be sent home by May 1st of each school year.](#)

In order to remove a special dietary request or modification, a physician or guardian note will be required to remove from the student's record.

Special Dietary Needs without Disability

Circumstances in which students without disability, but in need of a special dietary modification may contact the food service office. Modifications in these situations will be determined by the dietitian on a case-by-case basis.

Please keep in mind that schools are not required to make modifications based on family preferences. Vegetarian options, or options that can be made vegetarian, are available daily at lunch. The only pork containing products served at GPISD include the Turkey Pancake Breakfast on a Stick, BBQ Rib Sub, and Pulled Pork (at HS level only). All other traditional pork products, pepperoni, ham, etc., are chicken or turkey based.

Serving Special Dietary Needs

Please note:

When a food allergen that is not one of the eight major food allergens (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soy) and is listed on the ingredient list as 2% or less, this food will be allowed.

GPISD adheres to evidence-based research and agrees with the Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) practice on soy allergies. The FDA exempts high refined soybean oil from being labeled as an allergen. Studies show most individuals with a soy allergy can safely eat highly refined soy oil and soy lecithin. Thus, GPISD allows soy oil and soy lecithin in the soy allergen diets.

Products stocked by GPISD change due to supplier changes or substitutions. Manufacturers may also change formulation and ingredient profiles without the knowledge of GPISD Foodservices. Although our online menus reflect what is being served on a daily basis, we cannot guarantee the accuracy based on these supplier changes, or other special requests such as testing days.

*Additionally, GPISD cannot guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of the nutritional information contained on its website.