

# DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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### REQUEST FOR MODIFIED OR THERAPEUTIC DIETS

The United States Department of Agriculture, the governing body of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program, is requiring that students with requests for **modified** or **therapeutic** diets have on file in the Nutrition Services Department a written statement from a physician before the diet can be provided.

Under Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, a "person with a disability" means any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

Diets are designed to treat diseases/condition: such as the following:

- Orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments;
- Cerebral palsy;
- Epilepsy;
- Muscular dystrophy;
- Multiple sclerosis;
- Cancer;
- Heart disease;
- Metabolic diseases, such as diabetes or phenylketonuria (PKU);
- Food anaphylaxis (severe food allergy);
- Mental retardation;
- Emotional illness;
- Drug addiction and alcoholism.

The term "physical or mental impairment" includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as listed above.

### NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is advisable for specially trained personnel, such as a registered dietitian (R.D.), to provide guidance to the school nutrition staff on how the physician has ordered the child's meals to be modified.

## Request for Modified or Therapeutic Diets

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Moreover, for certain children with disabilities, it may be necessary to have a nurse or health aide feed the child or have a specially trained professional, such as a special education teacher, occupational therapist, or speech therapist, assist the child in order to help the child develop and improve eating skills.

Parents/guardians requesting dietary modification(s) due to a religious preference must have a written request on official letterhead from the pastoral head—e.g., priest, rabbi, or imam—of the religious organization.

All written requests must be submitted to the school nurse, who will then forward it to Cathie DeFehr, M.S.R.D., Nutrition Services Department, 125 Heid Avenue, Dayton, Ohio, 45404; phone, 542-3966. Three days lead time must be given for the diet to be put into effect.

All written requests will remain effective for the current school year only. A new request must be submitted for each school year.

Revised July 14, 2006