



According to the National School Lunch Program Act, Austin Public Schools is required to adhere to specific regulations to accommodate special diets for students enrolled within the district.

The Minnesota Department of Education states the following:

- A **certified medical authority** (medical doctor, physician's assistant or certified nurse practitioner) determines whether a student has a disability which qualifies them to receive menu accommodations during the school day.
- If a determination of **disability** is made, the certified medical authority must state the disability, how it restricts diet, the major life activity affected, and foods to omit and substitute. The certified medical authority must sign the form. This type of special diet request will be accommodated including offering necessary milk substitutes if needed.
- If a determination of **non-disability** is made, the certified medical authority must state the medical condition, how it restricts diet and foods to omit and substitute. The certified medical authority must sign the form. Requests will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
- In the case of **non-disability milk allergy requests**, we offer a nutritionally equivalent replacement of soy milk only.
- Requests for **lactose-free milk** can be made without a certified medical authority signature. Please complete the appropriate form "Lactose Statement for Students Requiring Lactose Free Milk".

Upon receipt of the special diet statement, our office will communicate with the student's parent/guardian and school nurse. If questions arise about the diet order prescription, communication to the certified medical authority may be made.

To have the most updated medical documentation, please have the family medical provider complete **new and updated forms every time there is a change in diet prescription.**

Please have forms returned as soon as possible to ensure accommodations can be made by the start of the school year.

Please contact our office with questions.

Tanner Lange RDN, LD
Registered Dietitian
Director, Food & Nutrition Services
Email: tanner.lange@austin.k12.mn.us
Phone: 507-460-1921

Jessica Rembao
Food and Nutrition Manager
Austin Public Schools
Email: jessica.rembao@austin.k12.mn.us
Phone: 507-460-1821