

Western School District
Bylaws & Policies

5331 - STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs

The Board of Education believes all students, through necessary accommodations where required, shall have the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

In some cases, a student's disability may prevent him/her from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

Substitutions to the regular meal will be made for students who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified in writing by a physician. Meal service shall be provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the student with this disability.

The licensed physician's statement shall specifically describe:

- A. the nature of the student's disability;
- B. the reason the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meals;
- C. foods to be omitted from the student's diet;
- D. the specific diet prescription along with the substitution(s) needed.

The District, in compliance with USDA Child Nutrition Division guidelines, will provide substitute meals to food-allergic students based upon the physician's signed statement.

The Board recognizes that students with documented life-threatening food allergies are considered disabled and are covered by The Disabilities Act and Public Law 93-112 and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A clearly-defined "504 Accommodation Plan" shall be developed and implemented for all such identified students in which necessary accommodations are made to ensure full participation of identified student in student activities. Such plan shall be signed by the appropriate staff, the parent/guardian of the student and the student's physician.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines for the care of food-allergic students. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, staff development, strategies for identifying students at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions, means to manage the student's allergy including avoidance measures, designation of typical symptoms and dosing instructions for medications.