



Building Operations/Food Services

Dietary, Cultural or Religious Food Restrictions

Procedure 2125

The City School District of the City of Cincinnati (Cincinnati Public Schools or CPS) believes it is our responsibility to serve students with respect and dignity. CPS is aware there are cultures and religions that observe customs related to diet. We also are aware that some students may have sensitivities to certain food products. To help us meet these needs, we ask that you proceed as described below.

Medical Food Restrictions

Prior to the first day of school, a parent may notify the principal that their child, for medical reasons, is not able to eat certain foods, with a medical statement signed by a doctor listing the restrictions. The doctor's statement is required by the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition. The principal will transmit the medical statement to the Registered Dietician in CPS' Food Services Office.

The dietician works with parents, the affected children and lunchroom staff providing them with menus, recipes and ingredients for all food prepared and served in our lunchrooms.

Depending on the severity of the restrictions, Food Services will make alternative food items available for these students, wherever possible. It also is recommended that parents contact school nurses with any special medical needs regarding their children's conditions.

Each lunchroom will keep an up-to-date list of all children whose parents have submitted the required medical statements. We will make every effort to comply with the restrictions once we are made aware of them. We are not with any child 100 percent of the time; we cannot guarantee that a child will not eat a restricted item.

Religious and/or Cultural Food Restrictions

For a parent concerned about dietary, cultural or religious food restrictions, we ask that a letter be sent to the child's school principal notifying the principal of food restrictions.

The school lunch meal pattern currently allows for flexibility and menu management if personal preferences are given in advance. Furthermore, the daily menu is constructed to offer a non-beef and a non-pork product every day.

Each lunchroom will keep an up-to-date list of all children whose parents have advised principals of dietary, cultural, or religious food restrictions. We will make every effort to comply with the restrictions once we are made aware of them. We are not with any child 100 percent of the time; we cannot guarantee that a child will not eat a restricted item.

We cannot anticipate the needs of all students. Unless we are aware in advance of a child's dietary, cultural or religious restrictions, we may not be able to provide a complete meal.

Parent Responsibilities

It is our expectation that parents will exercise their responsibilities to educate their children with respect to food restrictions. Parents should teach their children to ask lunchroom staff to identify any food items that the children cannot identify.

Parents are encouraged to file with their children's principals the appropriate medical statements or letters prior to their children's first day of attendance at school.