



## **SPECIAL MEAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Washington Township Schools adheres to specific USDA guidelines in providing special diet accommodations for students. In accordance with the criteria set forth in USDA Regulation 7 CFR Part 15b, those students who are unable to eat the school meal due to a disability, medical need, or impairment are accommodated. Dietary needs due to lifestyle and religious reasons are important to our school but not a requirement by USDA to make accommodations. Our school will try to accommodate lifestyle and religious needs through our current menu options.

In many cases, students do not require special meal substitutions, instead foods can be avoided and other choices picked. Point-of-sale alerts are used to monitor students with medically documented life threatening allergies. A signed medical statement must be provided to the school nurse in order for these alerts to be set in the cafeteria.

**MSDWT CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES  
THE DEAN EVANS COMMUNITY & EDUCATION CENTER  
317-845-9400**

# **Food Allergies and Special Feeding Needs in the Cafeteria**

## **1. Meal Substitutions**

USDA regulations require substitutions or modifications in school meals for children whose disabilities restrict their diets. A child with a disability must be provided food substitutions when a statement signed by a licensed medical authority supports that need.

**For meal substitutions, a physician's statement must be updated at the start of each school year and 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 or foods to be omitted from the child's diet

*Once a physician's statement has been completed, please turn into the school nurse to arrange for meal accommodations.*

## **2. Allergy Safe Tables**

Allergy Safe tables are available in all cafeterias upon request. We highly encourage this use for only very severe cases that cannot be managed at the regular lunch table. For accommodations, please have the student's physician fill out a Medical Management Form and turn this into the school nurse.

## **3. Milk Substitutions**

The USDA requires that fluid cow's milk or a nutritionally equivalent beverage be offered to students purchasing a school meal. Students are not required to take the milk. If a child has a milk intolerance due to lactose, vanilla flavored Dairy Ease is offered as a substitution at no additional cost and a medical statement is not needed. Water cups are also available to all students to use at water stations in each cafeteria. Juice and bottled water are not nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk and therefore cannot be substituted for milk unless the student is classified as having a disability.