

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN SPECIAL EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

Special Diet Acknowledgment

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) is committed to working with parents of students with food allergy/sensitivity and/or the need for soft/puree' foods to determine if accommodations (alternative menu) can be made.

Alternatives offered may not be the same as the main menu item.

Alternative menu items are available for those students who have proper, annual documentation of food allergy/sensitivity and/or the need for soft/puree' foods from the child's physician.

Families of students who have life threatening allergies always have the option to opt out of the Meal Program and bring their own food daily. While NSSEO makes reasonable efforts to provide a nut free meal option to students with a nut allergy/sensitivity, we cannot guarantee that our kitchens/schools are nut-free environments.

NSSEO's schools are not nut-free environments; however, procedures have been put in place that promote a safe learning environment. Parents of students with life threatening food allergies are required to provide documentation of the allergy and to supply the medication. An Emergency Action Plan is in place at NSSEO schools that provides a written directive of care to be given to the student in the event of an allergic reaction. In addition, a peanut and nut-free lunch table has been designated in each school cafeteria. Staff, of students who may require the use of and Epi-Pen have been trained on how to administer one safely and have access to students' Emergency Action Plans. Additionally, food service staff and maintenance staff have been trained in proper cleaning and sanitation procedures.

Please have your physician complete the attached Physician Statement for Food Substitution and return to my attention at the address below or by email to [jjilek@nsseo.org](mailto:jjilek@nsseo.org). Also, please sign and return the attached Special Dietary Acknowledgement Form indicating that you are aware that NSSEO's Schools are not nut-free environments.

NSSEO's goal is to provide all students with a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Thank you,

Julie Jilek

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