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## OCONEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is the goal of the Oconee County School Nutrition Program to ensure that our students receive the safest and most appropriate food items on a daily basis.

If you believe your child qualifies for a special diet, the attached form must be completed and returned to the School Nutrition Program Office. Special diet requests will be reviewed and created in the order they are received. If your student is eligible for a special diet based on this information, we will then meet with you to establish a plan that meets your student's needs.

The guidelines for receiving a special diet are as follows:

- Any student whose licensed physician/physician assistant/nurse practitioner certifies that the student has a severe, life threatening allergic (anaphylactic) reaction may qualify for a special diet.
- Students who have intolerances but do not require specialized diets as a result of a disability will not qualify for special diets. For instance, students who have lactose intolerance but do not require a special diet as a result of a disability will not qualify.  
Note: A substitute for milk or other requests based on intolerances, not a disability, will not be provided.
- Students with disabilities whose licensed physician/physician assistant/nurse practitioner certifies the students require specialized diets or meals as a result of their disability will qualify.
- Students who receive meal accommodations based on current specific dietary accommodations in their 504 Plan or IEP will receive those accommodations, but we do ask for the most current information as dietary needs change.

New forms are required each school year. Please review the instructions below to ensure that these forms are received correctly so that we may create a special diet as soon as possible for your child.

- Form must be filled out AFTER May 1, 2020
- Form must be filled out by a licensed physician/physician assistant/nurse practitioner.
- Form must be filled out completely. If it is not, there may be a delay in creating and implementing a special diet for your child.

Please be aware that we continue to receive updated guidance from USDA on this topic. We may need to ask for additional information in the future, and we apologize for this inconvenience.

If you have questions, please contact the School Nutrition Program office.

Thank you,

Rebecca N. Thorpe  
School Nutrition Director