Procedure for Students with Food Allergies/Special Diets

Why is this important?

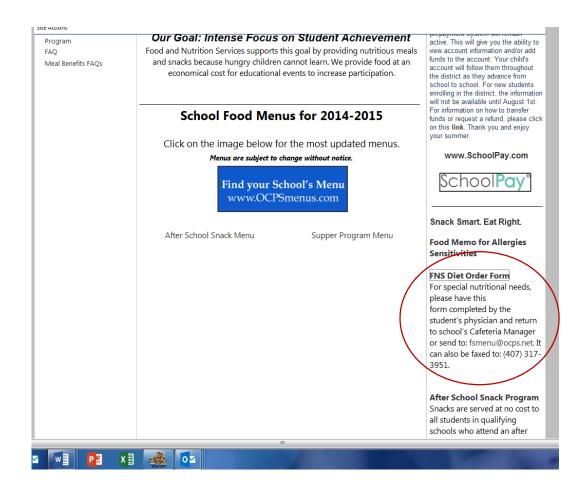
Food allergies can be considered a disability if they interfere with a major life activity such as breathing (anaphylaxis), or if they severely impact the student's ability to function in school. A licensed physician assesses the severity of the food allergy and determines the need level of sensitivity to the food. The FNS Department of OCPS, follows the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nondiscrimination regulation (7 CFR 15b), as well as the regulations governing the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, which make it clear that substitutions to the regular meal must be made for children who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified by a licensed physician.

Things needed before this can be completed:

Before a special diet can be provided for an OCPS registered student, the parents need to have their children's physician complete an FNS Diet Order Form and return it to the school cafeteria manager or to the Food and Nutrition Services District Office located on 6501 Magic Way, Bldg. 500, Orlando, FL 32809. Completed forms can be faxed to (407)317-3951 or emailed to FSMenu@OCPS.net.

What do I need to do?

- For new student: During the Registration Process in school, parents need to inform
 the registrar or the school cafeteria manager that the student has a known food
 allergy. The cafeteria manager provides the parent with the FNS Diet Order Form
 for their Physician to complete. The Form has written instructions in English and
 in Spanish. The FNS Diet order form is also available on this link:
 https://www.ocps.net/op/food/Pages/Nutrition.aspx
- For an OCPS student: As soon as a food allergy is identified, the parents need to
 inform the school cafeteria manager that the student has a known food allergy
 and obtain a Diet Order Form from them to be completed by the Student's
 Physician. The FNS Diet order form is also available on this link:
 https://www.ocps.net/op/food/Pages/Nutrition.aspx



All completed FNS Diet Order Forms should be returned to the Cafeteria Manager, or be faxed to (407)317-3951. They can also be emailed to FSMenu@OCPS.net. in order to be sent to the FNS Registered Dietitian on Magic Way as specified in the FNS Diet Order Form.

What happens next?

• In 2-3 working days, the Registered Dietitian will evaluate the Diet Order and if necessary communicate with the parent in order to develop the diet instructions for the school cafeteria manager. If further information is needed, the OCPS Registered Dietitian (RDN) will communicate by phone with the parents. It is very important that parents provide contact information as requested on the FNS Diet Order Form. The RDN will provide the manager with diet instructions to be followed in the cafeteria. Finally, the school cafeteria manager will identify the child in the POS system so that an alert is displayed when the student's ID is entered into the system.