

Requesting an Accommodation for Special Dietary Needs Procedure and Process

Beacon City School District adheres to specific United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines in providing special dietary accommodations for students. A "reasonable modification" is a change or alteration in practices or procedures to accommodate a disability that ensures that students with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from the program. In accordance with the criteria set forth in [7 CFR Part 15b](#), those students who are unable to eat the school meal due to a disability, medical need, and/or impairment are accommodated, at no additional charge. Meal modifications must be related to the disability or limitations caused by the disability. The USDA regulations for school nutrition programs does not require meal modifications for children whose special dietary needs do not constitute a disability, including those related to religious or moral convictions, general health concerns, and personal food preferences.

Per [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#), parents/ guardians have a right to an evaluation of their student if the district has reason to believe that the student has a mental and/or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, which can involve eating/digestion. Students have the right to this evaluation before any plan for accommodation. Parents/guardians should ensure that they contact the school if they feel as though an evaluation would be appropriate.

Parents/guardians should complete the necessary information on the medical statement form in order to request an accommodation for their student. The school may contact the student and parents/guardians for additional information as needed. For example, if the substitutions needed for accommodations fall outside of the USDA meal pattern, the form must be signed by a Licensed Healthcare Professional with prescriptive privileges in the state of NY.

Procedural Safeguards

If the household feels that reasonable accommodation are not being met, they have the right to contact the Pupil Personnel Services, Dr. Heather Chadwell Dennis, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services at #(845) 838-6900 and:

- File a grievance if they believe a violation has occurred regarding the request for a reasonable modification;
- Receive a prompt and equitable resolution of the grievance;
- Request and participate in an impartial hearing to resolve their grievances;
- Be represented by counsel at the hearing;
- Examine the record; and
- Receive notice of the final decision and a procedure for review, i.e., right to appeal the hearing's decision.

Accommodations Coordinator

- The safety of your child comes first. If you have a child with a disability/medical need or impairment, please submit your request for accommodation by completing this form and submitting it to: Your Child's School Nurse .
- For more information about accommodations for meals and the meal service for students with disabilities, please contact the School Nutrition Department 845-845-838-6900 X2012 or the PPS department 845-838-6900 x2015.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>(link is external), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov(link is external)(link is external)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.