



Pocono Mountain School District

PO Box 200 • Swiftwater, PA 18370 • 570-839-7121

August 26, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you of the Pocono Mountain School District policy regarding Food Allergies and medical documentation. Our policy 209.1 Food Allergies and Food Substitution clearly states the following information about Food Substitutions:

USDA regulations 7 CFR Part 15b require substitutions or modifications in school meals for children with qualifying disabilities under federal law whose disabilities restrict their diets. In such cases, *the district shall provide food substitutions where, as required by law, the parent/guardian has provided written documentation by a licensed physician indicating that the student requires a food substitution as a result of a disability.* The district shall determine whether the disability indicated satisfies the legal requirements for a disability for which food substitutions shall be required. The physician's written statement must provide the following:

1. the child's disability;
2. an explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet;
3. the major life activity affected by the disability;
4. the food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted.

For all food substitution requests not related to the above, parents/guardians should contact their child's school directly to see if a food substitution is available. The district is not obligated to provide food substitutions unless the student's substitution need is due to a Section 504 or ADA-eligible disability.

The district may, but is not required to, make food substitutions for individual children who do not have a disability, but who are medically certified as having a special medical or dietary need. In such case, a written physician's statement shall be required. Where such food substitutions are not provided, parents/guardians shall be responsible for providing the food substitution, if necessary.

Students who require food substitutions for non-medical reasons (including personal choice, dietary preference, etc., such as non-medical gluten-free diets, vegetarian options, etc.) are permitted to bring their own substitutions but shall not be entitled to food substitution.

Please contact the building nurse if you have any questions related to the Physician's note or the Food Allergy Policy. Thank you in advance for your help and compliance with this school district policy.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Colozza
Chief Financial Officer