



# GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

*ONE GAINESVILLE: We will inspire, nurture, challenge, and prepare our students.*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is the goal of the Gainesville City 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 department or cafeteria. 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 certifies that the student has a severe, life threatening allergic (anaphylactic) reaction may qualify for a special diet. An anaphylactic reaction is considered disabling.

- 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. Milk is optional for students; water is located in the cafeteria.
- Students with disabilities whose licensed physician certifies the students require specialized diets or meals as a result of their disability (life-threatening allergy) 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.

A new GCSS form and/or form verification is 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 July 1, 2015
- Form must be filled out by a licensed physician (M.D.). Forms filled out entirely by a parent/guardian will be returned.
- 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. Physician must specify foods to be substituted if a disability prevents the child from eating a normal meal and they require the SNP to create a special meal.

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 me via email at [Emily.house@gcssk12.net](mailto:Emily.house@gcssk12.net)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily House".

**Emily House, M.Ed.**  
**School Nutrition Coordinator**  
**Gainesville City Schools**