

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SCHOOL NUTRITION DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 158, 320 BAGLEY DR.
JACKSON, NC 27845**

Northampton County Schools is committed to educating your patients in a healthy, safe environment. To that end, we want to strengthen the communication and teamwork among community health care providers and school staff related to the care of our common students with special needs who require modified diets at school.

Please review the attached document entitled, Medical Statement for Students with Special Nutritional Needs for School Meals and the guidance document entitled, Food & Liquid Consistency Modification. These are documents we have trained our school staff to use. **For students with a disability, a Medical Statement must be signed by a licensed physician** For students without a disability, a licensed physician or recognized medical authority (which includes a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner) must sign the form. A properly signed and completed Medical Statement is required before Northampton County Schools can modify a student's meals. Please note that special dietary needs for students **without an IEP or 504 Plan** are accommodated at the discretion of the School Nutrition Administrator and according to the policies of our school district. A completed Medical Statement is not a guarantee that the modified diet will be provided for students without a documented disability that impacts their performance at school.

It would be great if all of the health care providers in your practice would use this process and these documents in order to facilitate timely, safe, and accurate meal substitutions for students who require them.

Thank you in advance for your support and collaboration. We hope to work together on future efforts for children with special needs requiring modified diets, as well as on other health care issues that need be addressed in school. If you have any questions about the process or documents for meal modification at school, please contact Nicole Baker, School Nutrition Director at the above address telephone number (252) 534-1371 ext. 2223 or 2228, or email bakern@northampton.k12.nc.us. You may also contact the principal or school nurse at the student's school.

Sincerely,

Nicole Baker
School Nutrition Director

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