



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**HNS#24-2013**

USDA# SP 36-2013, CACFP 10-2013, SFSP 12-2013

**MEMORANDUM**

*Original Signed*

**TO:** All National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program Sponsors

**FROM:** Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director  
School Nutrition Programs

Melissa Conner, Director  
Child & Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program

**DATE:** May 6, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Guidance Related to the ADA Amendments Act

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide schools, institutions, facilities, sites, and sponsors participating in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) with additional clarifications on making dietary accommodations for children with disabilities as required under Section 9(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 USC 1758(a), CNP regulations and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), P.L. 110-325. The ADAAA, as explained in further detail in the next paragraph below, amended the Federal definition of disability, broadening it to cover additional individuals. Because of this broader definition, it is reasonable that CNP operators may see more children identified by their licensed physician as having a food-related disability than were identified previously. Program operators should note, however, that the process for identifying children with disabilities requiring an accommodation has not changed. The CNPs continue to require that participants seeking an accommodation for a disability that is food-related must provide a statement from a licensed physician (as defined by the State) identifying the food-related disability and indicating the required meal accommodation.



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The ADAAA broadened the list of “Major Life Activities” for purposes of identifying individuals with disabilities and added a new category called “Major Bodily Functions”, 42 USC 12102(2)(B). This law continues to include as “Major Life Activities”: “caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating and working.” As amended by the ADAAA, Major Life Activities now also includes “Major Bodily Functions” such as: “functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, and reproductive functions.” It is important to point out that individuals who take mitigating measures to improve or control any of the conditions recognized as a disability, are still considered to have a disability and require an accommodation.

The Food and Nutrition Service is working to update the guidance, *Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs in the School Nutrition Programs, Guidance for School Food Service Staff* (<http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/files/2011/06/special-dietary-needs-manual-sept-2011.pdf>), to reflect the broadened definition of disabilities. Institutions should refer to this resource until more specific guidance is made available.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact your ADE Specialist at 602-542-8700.



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