



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of all Child Nutrition Programs

FROM: John Frassinelli, Chief
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: May 30, 2013

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #32-13
Guidance Related to the ADA Amendments Act

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide school food authorities 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 (a doctor of medicine or osteopathy) identifying the food-related disability and indicating the required meal accommodation.

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 United States Department of Agriculture is working to update the guidance, Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs in the School Nutrition Programs, Guidance for School Food Service Staff, to reflect the broadened definition of disabilities.

Questions may be directed to:

COUNTY ASSIGNMENTS	CONSULTANT
Litchfield County New London County	Fionnuala Brown fionnuala.brown@ct.gov 860-807-2129
Fairfield County Middlesex County (towns/cities beginning with C-E) New Haven County (towns/cities beginning with A-M)	Jackie Schipke jackie.schipke@ct.gov 860-807-2123
Middlesex County (towns/cities beginning with F-W) Tolland County Windham County	Susan Alston susan.alston@ct.gov 860-807-2081
Hartford County New Haven County (towns/cities beginning with N-W)	Teri Dandeneau teri.dandeneau@ct.gov 860-807-2079

JF:tdd