

Policies and Procedures

Milk Substitution for Children with Medical or Special Dietary Needs (Non-Disability)

This policy addresses the substitution of fluid milk for children whose *non-disabling* allergies, culture, religion, or ethical beliefs, such as lactose intolerance, do not permit the consumption of regular cow's milk.

The USDA does not allow a school to offer other beverages, such as juice, as a substitute for fluid milk in the School Meals Programs. According to regulations, a substitute must be nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk. Because we recognize the valuable contribution of milk to a child's diet, effective Wednesday, September 8, 2010 Staunton City Schools **will begin providing a milk substitute in place of regular cow's milk for children documented with having lactose intolerance.** Our milk supplier, Shenandoah's Pride, is providing us with a lactose free milk product for those with lactose intolerance issues. *Dairy Ease*, produced by Land O' Lakes, is a fat-free, 100% Lactose-free milk and nutritionally equivalent to our regular fluid milk.

In order to document this non-disabling dietary need and request a substitute for fluid milk, parents/guardians must provide a statement identifying the student's need. A written statement from a licensed physician will also be accepted as documentation of non-disabling dietary need. Once written documentation is on file at your child's school, the Cafeteria Manager will know to keep Dairy Ease Lactose Free Milk on hand.

If you have questions or need any further explanation regarding this policy, please contact:

Shirley Eagle, School Nutrition Program Coordinator
Staunton City Public Schools
P. O. Box 900
Staunton, VA 24402-0900