

## Communication Regarding Food and Drinks in Schools and Academic Institutions

Subject: Food and drinks served in schools & institutions

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to inform you that the Islamic religion has special rules regarding food derived from animals, such as meat, fats, gelatin, enzymes, etc. It is not permissible for Muslims to eat any type of food derived from animals unless it is “halal,” meaning the animal has been slaughtered according to Islamic rules. Halal food can be obtained from shops and slaughterhouses that are trusted and certified by well-regarded religious clerics or institutions. This is a fundamental rule agreed upon by all Muslims of different denominations and one that we hope you understand and take into consideration.

Therefore, we would appreciate if schools and academic institutions could provide alternate options and make necessary allowances for observant Muslim Americans. We hope you understand this religious obligation and kindly request you to discuss reasonable accommodations with the individual(s) which would allow them to eat without compromising on their religious beliefs.

This communication was issued in response to the high number of requests from the guardians of Muslim students for an official letter explaining this intricacy of the Islamic religion. I.M.A.M. is a non-profit religious organization authorized and commissioned by the supreme religious authority of Shia Muslims, which has been based in the Seminary of Najaf in Iraq for more than a millennium, to support and serve the Shia Muslim community in North America.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us through any of the communication channels listed below.

Sincerely,

I.M.A.M.