

# Commission on Dietetic Registration

the credentialing agency for the  
**eat right.** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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## Dietetic Technicians, Registered in School Nutrition

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**Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs) are excellent candidates to manage school food service operations and school meal programs that ensure students are receiving healthy, nutritious meals to fuel them throughout the day.**

DTRs have a background in both nutrition and food service management making them uniquely qualified to manage a school meal program. Their nutrition training and knowledge enables them to identify products and services that best serve a particular meal program. DTRs consult with registered dietitian (RDs) to make recommendations for meal accommodations for children requiring therapeutic and special diets; i.e., food allergies and medical conditions. A child’s educational successes are tied to proper nutrition which allows them to better concentrate on learning. Help ensure your school’s children are fulfilling their academic potential by employing a DTR.

**Responsibilities of a DTR in school nutrition, working in consultation with an RD, include:**

- Planning, implementing and analyzing school menus
- Implementing the MD’s therapeutic diet order guided by the RD
- Assisting in data entry of all recipes, food items, menus and food production record in Point-of-Service systems
- Monitoring and evaluating records necessary for federal and state record keeping
- Adhering to the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service guidance and regulations
- Promoting food, nutrition, and special services (e.g., special diet requests) to students, parents and school administrators

DTRs are dietetics practitioners credentialed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). All DTRs have a background in food science, nutrition, and food service management, have completed an education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and have successfully passed the registration examination for dietetic technicians, administered by CDR.

Not all individuals with the job title of “Dietetic Technician” are credentialed as Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTR).

	Diet Tech	DTR
Has met specific educational requirements in nutrition and dietetics	Sometimes	Yes
Has passed a computerized, practice-based credentialing exam	No	Yes
Meets rigorous continuing professional education standards to maintain the credential	No	Yes
Upholds the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics	No	Yes
Has an educational background in clinical nutrition and food service systems/management	Sometimes	Yes
Certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies	N/A	Yes

**DTRs are invaluable in the workplace—here’s why:**

**“DTR’s have the training required to perform in a variety of settings in nutrition practice. DTRs are exposed to a lot of different things in terms of education, so that they can come into the work force very prepared to handle any type of position.”**  
*Christine Hartney, RD, Illinois*

**“More employers should consider having DTRs on their staff as opposed to non-credentialed individuals. The DTR brings quite a few unique skills that you can’t get without specialized nutrition training. They provide another layer of care.”**  
*Caroline Steele, RD, California*

For more information, visit [www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)