



## Medical Statement for Children with Dietary Disabilities

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USDA regulation 7 CFR Part 15b requires substitutions or modifications in school meals for children whose disabilities restrict their diets. A child with a disability with substitution requests which fall outside of the meal pattern must be supported by a statement signed by a licensed healthcare professional (licensed physician (MD), advanced practice nurse (APN) with prescriptive authority (RXN), or physician assistant (PA)).

If an SFA chooses to use its own medical statement the statement signed by the licensed physician (MD or DO), advanced practice nurse (APN) with prescriptive authority (RXN) or physician assistant (PA), it must include **all** of the following:

- ✓ The child's disability and explanation of how the disability restricts the child's diet
- ✓ Major life activity affected by the disability
- ✓ The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted

According to USDA Memo SP 26-2017, if the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan includes the same information required in the medical statement or if the required information is obtained by the school during the development or review of the IEP or 504 Plan, it is not necessary for the SFA to obtain a separate medical statement.

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