



# Oregon Department of Education

Kate Brown, Governor

Office of Student Services

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June 29, 2016

TO: Sponsors of the Child Nutrition Programs

RE: Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs

SP 32-2015; SFSP 15-2015; CACFP 13-2015

**Action Required**

**Effective Immediately**

The Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs (ODE CNP) received guidance from USDA expanding the list of acceptable medical professionals that may sign a medical statement for meal accommodations in the Child Nutrition Programs and recommend alternate foods for children whose disability restricts their diets.

A broader list of medical providers will improve access to meal accommodations for children with special dietary needs while balancing the administrative burden placed on program operators and participants requesting meal accommodations.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is committed to ensuring that all children have access to healthy meals that meet their dietary needs. FNS has facilitated access for children with special dietary needs through the Child Nutrition Programs [National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Special Milk Program (SMP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) regulations, (NSLP 210.10(m), SBP 220.8(m), 220.23(d) CACFP 226.20(m), and SJFSP 225.16(f)(4)) and guidance, which includes FNS Instruction 783.2, *Meal Substitutions for Medical or Other Special Dietary Needs* and *Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs in the School Nutrition Programs*.

Current regulations and guidance require program operators to provide reasonable accommodations for children whose disability restricts their diet for all meals and snacks when supported by a medical statement signed by a licensed physician.

However, in many States, laws permit specific State-recognized medical professionals to treat patients and write medical prescriptions. With this in mind, FNS has determined that along with licensed physicians and at the discretion of a State agency, it is reasonable to also permit other recognized medical authorities to complete and sign a medical statement for meal accommodations in the Child Nutrition Programs and recommend alternate foods for children whose disability restricts their diet.

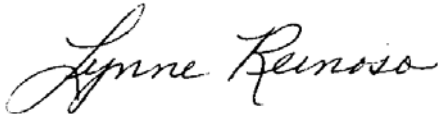
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In Oregon a recognized medical authority for this purpose is a State licensed health care professional who is authorized to write medical prescriptions under State law [Medical Doctors of Medicine (MD); Doctors of Osteopathy (DO); Doctors of Naturopathy (ND); Physician's Assistant (PA); Certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist; Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD); Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS); Doctor of Optometry (OD)].

This update is effective immediately.

If you have questions, please contact your assigned Child Nutrition Specialist.

Sincerely,



Lynne Reinoso  
Manager, Community Nutrition  
Child Nutrition Programs  
Office of Learning/Student Services



Heidi Dupuis  
Manager, School Nutrition  
Child Nutrition Programs  
Office of Learning/Student Services