Meal Accommodations in School Nutrition Programs

Maine Department of Education
Child Nutrition Programs



Laws and Regulations

Protecting the rights of children with disabilities:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- > 7CFR 15b
- ➤ Section 9(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 USC 1758(a)



USDA Memo SP59-2016

 Schools must make reasonable accommodations for students with a disability when they have a complete medical statement signed by a licensed medical authority

 Most physical & mental impairments constitute a disability. The focus should not be IF a student has a disability, but on...

Ensuring equal opportunity to participate in the school meal program



Medical Statement

- A form for requesting dietary accommodations in school meal programs that provides guidance & record keeping
- Must provide clear instructions:
 - ✓ Sufficient information to allow the SFA to understand how the impairment restricts the child's diet.
 - ✓ An explanation and instruction of how to make the accommodation.
 - ✓ The food or foods to be omitted and/or substituted from the child's diet
- Must be signed
 - ✓ licensed physician
 - Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Nurse Practitioner, & Physician's Assistant



IEP/504 Plan

 If an IEP/504 plan contains the same information that is required on a medical statement, it is not necessary to obtain a medical statement





Medical Statement Template

www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/nslp

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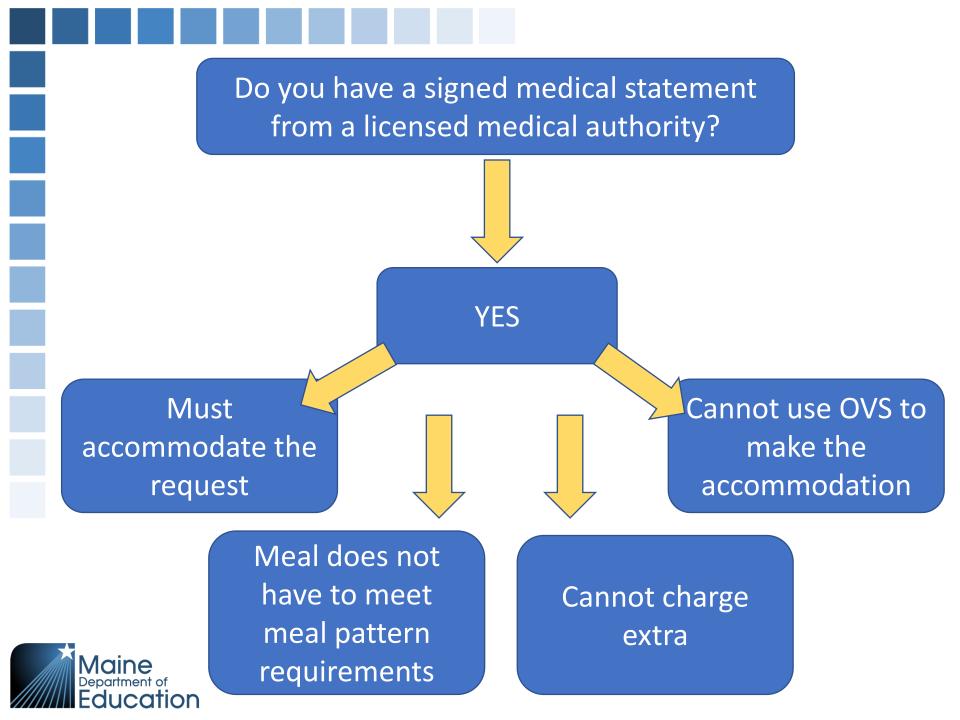




YES

No





Medical Statement

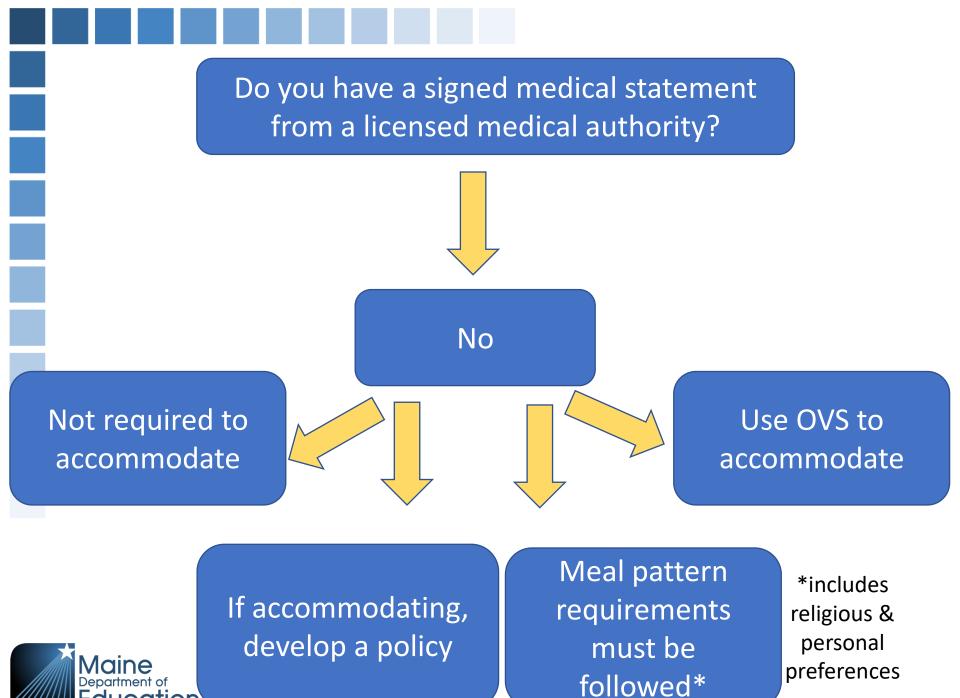
- Your job is to provide the meal as described
- Never revise or modify the information on the medical statement!
- If information is unclear, contact the parent/guardian or school nurse for contact information for someone who can clarify the diet order



Medical Statement

- Does not need to be updated on a yearly basis
- It is okay to check with the nurse or household
 - Children may outgrow intolerances
 - Diet therapy may change over time





Fluid Milk Substitutes







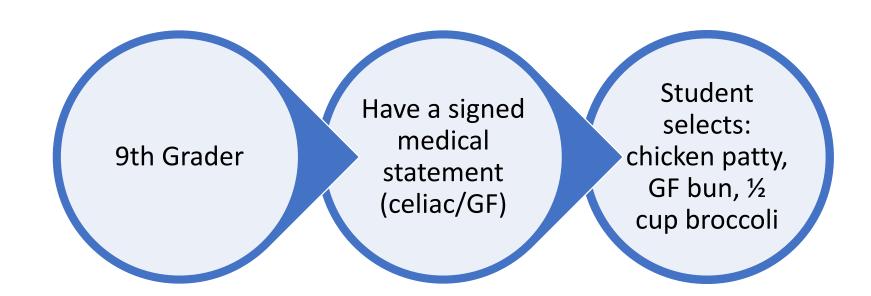
Fluid milk substitutes may be requested in writing by a parent/guardian

Must be nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk

May not substitute juice or water



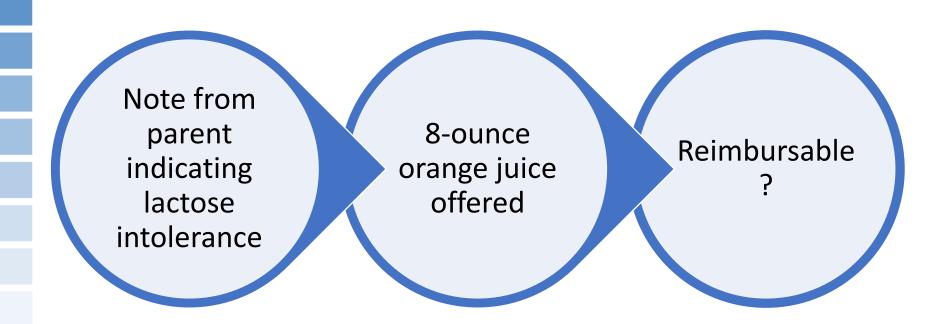
What Do You Think?



Reimbursable!



What Do You Think?



Not Reimbursable!



Household Notification

Notify households:

- ► The process for requesting meal modifications
- Non-discrimination
- Contact person for providing modifications
- When supporting documentation is needed
- ► Your timeline
- SFAs process for handling non-disabling modification requests



Considerations

SFAs Must:

Provide an integrated setting

Not exclude a student from meal service

The SFA is NOT required:

To provide specific brands

Must provide a reasonable alternative

Accommodations not required:

Food preferences

Vegetarian/Religious preferences



Communication is Key!



Parents

- Learn about local policies
- Discuss their student's needs
- Offer suggestions for how they accommodate at home



Parents/Students

- Tour the kitchen
- Meet FS staff
- Review menus
- Communicate with FS when they will/will not be eating

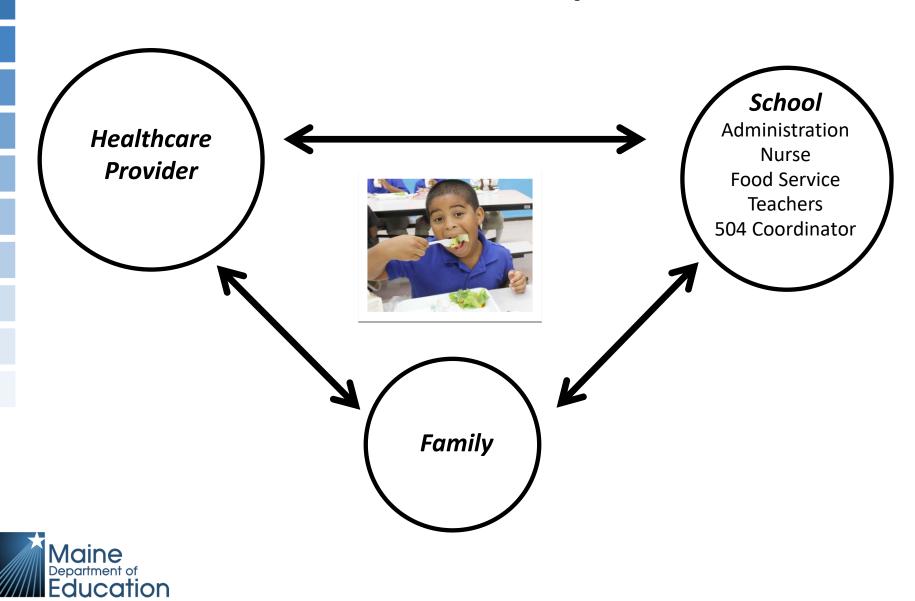


Food Service

- Let student know what to expect
- Make every effort to accommodate
- Maintain confidentiality



The Partnership



Questions?



