

January 8, 2015

Dear Physician:

In order to provide a special diet for your patient, the West Virginia Department of Education requires a medical statement to be completed and submitted to the sponsoring agency. The information provided through the medical statement will assist the child nutrition program in making the necessary modifications to the regular site menu. If you have additional information necessary for the preparation or delivery of the special diet, please attach it to the special dietary needs medical statement. If an individual is referred to a dietitian, please indicate that information on the attached medical form.

The parent/guardian may sign a Release of Information Statement that would give medical authorities the permission to release information about their child's special diet. This form will be included with the parent's letter.

Child nutrition program regulations require agencies sponsoring these federal child nutrition programs to provide modified diets for individuals with disabilities when prescribed by a licensed physician (MD and DO). These regulations state that sponsoring agencies may also provide modified diets to non-disabled individuals when supported by a completed medical statement by a recognized medical authority. A recognized medical authority is defined by the West Virginia Department of Education as a medical doctor (MD), doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO), nurse practitioner (CRNP) or a physician's assistant (PA). More information regarding disabilities is listed on the attached medical form.

Enclosed you will find the medical statement, Release of Information Statement and Children with Disabilities and Special Dietary Needs Definitions. The West Virginia Department of Education appreciates your assistance and cooperation in helping better meet the dietary needs of your patients. Should you have questions or need information, please contact the sponsoring agency. If additional guidance is needed, please contact Celeste Peggs, MS, RD, LD, Coordinator, Office of Child Nutrition at 304-558-3396 or [crpeggs@k12.wv.us](mailto:crpeggs@k12.wv.us).

Sincerely,



Richard J. Goff, Executive Director  
Office of Child Nutrition  
West Virginia Department of Education

RJG:CP:twp