

BTSW Follow Up

There were a few topics that we wanted to touch on after our sessions at the 2024 Back to School Workshop to provide further clarification.

Vegetable Subgroups:

Q: Where do you find information on vegetable subgroups?

A: There are many resources available. Since you participate in USDA Child Nutrition Programs, we follow USDA Child Nutrition Program related resources regarding vegetable subgroups. You may find some conflicting data if you do a simple search for vegetable subgroup listings.

To be sure you are including the correct vegetables within each subgroup, check out a few of our trusted sources:

- Page 42 of your Lunch Production Record Book
- Food Buying Guide (PDF Version) [Vegetables \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/food-buying-guide/vegetables) OR Searching based on your food item in the web-based tool [Home Page \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/food-buying-guide/)

If you are having trouble determining which vegetable belongs in a certain subgroup, please contact our office at dpicnfd@nd.gov.

Special diet information and brand name clarification

There were questions related to how to handle special diets, and specifically how to handle brand name requests. Guidance from USDA comes from the following manual:

[Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meal Programs \(azureedge.us\)](https://www.azureedge.us)

Reference page 23 for brand name requests *“In some situations, a State licensed healthcare professional may request a particular brand name of a product as a substitute on the medical statement. For example, a medical statement for a child with gluten intolerance may request a specific brand of gluten-free bread. If a modification request indicates a brand name item, in most instances, a generic brand is sufficient, unless the brand name item is medically necessary. This can be determined through the interactive process with the child’s parent or guardian. In the example above, if the medical statement lists a specific brand of gluten-free bread, the SFA could check with the family to see if it would be safe and appropriate for the SFA to provide a different brand. In this instance, the family could then affirm the brand name change.”*

In short, unless the brand name is medically necessary, you as the District are not required to provide the specific brand name. Be sure to check with the family to let them know what you are reasonably able to obtain, if you are to offer something different than the brand listed.

Contact Information:

Due to recent changes in our department, we will provide a more updated contact information sheet once staffing changes are finalized.

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