

Food Allergies, Food Intolerances and Special Diet Needs at *Champ's Café*

School Food & Nutrition Services of Charlotte County Public Schools

All meals served by Champ's Café meet nutritional standards set by the USDA, the United States Department of Agriculture. If a child has a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and that disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, Champ's Café will make substitutions prescribed by a healthcare provider with prescriptive authority.

Although Champ's Café is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy (hypersensitivity) or food intolerance (adverse reaction to food not involving the body's immune system), through the wide variety of well-planned nutritious foods offered each day, the child can make appropriate safe food choices. We work with our customers to create healthy meals that meet their nutritional needs and food preferences.

If a child has a special dietary need*, Champ's Café must have a medical statement from a healthcare provider with prescriptive authority that must include and address these three items:

Medical Statement / Prescription Requirements:

- **an identification of the medical or other special dietary condition that restricts the child's diet;**
- **the food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet and**
- **the food or choice of foods to be substituted**

This medical statement / prescription must be placed on file with the **School Nurse**. The School Nurse will notify the Champ's Café Manager.

Feel free to contact your School Champ's Café Manager, School Nurse or the Food & Nutrition Services Central Office (941-575-5400) with questions you may have regarding this documentation.

Terri Whitacre

Director of Food & Nutrition Services, *Champ's Cafe*

* **MILK** is one of the USDA's 4 food items offered

at Breakfast and 5 food items offered at Lunch. If a child has a medical or special dietary need involving **MILK**, such as lactose intolerance, that is, the child cannot drink milk, or can drink milk only on an infrequent basis, a **PARENT NOTE** to the **School Nurse** will allow the Food & Nutrition Services staff to substitute **Lactaid Milk** as a beverage with the meal. *USDA does not permit Champ's Cafe to provide juice instead of milk; Juice does not provide the same nutrients as milk or Lactaid Milk.* For the **Student who is Lactose Intolerant and**

who has a PARENT NOTE on file, the choices are:

--select a **Lactaid Milk** (just ask the cashier if you do not see any available)

--decline milk—it is not requirement for a child to take milk with a meal OR --purchase an 8 oz. juice

→ If a child does not have a medical need, but does not like the taste of milk, the child may purchase a non-dairy beverage, such as juice.

→ If a child does have a medical need, please comply with the **Medical Statement Requirements** (above).

For more information about Champ's Café, including applying for free/reduced-price meal benefits, please visit the district's website: **www.yourcharlotteschools.net** updated 2/2016