

Q&As for RFP 2026-03
STATEWIDE FOOD DIST- CNP Group A

VENDOR QUESTION	ALSDE RESPONSE
<p>We are currently reviewing the bid documents and noticed that line item #XXXXX references a SKU that has been discontinued by the manufacturer.</p> <p>Would you please confirm whether we may submit bid pricing for the manufacturer's recommended replacement SKU for this item? If so, please advise if any additional documentation is required with our submission.</p>	<p>If an item specified in the RFP has been discontinued by the MFG and replaced with another similar item, the replacement item can be offered. An official MFG nutritional analysis and crediting statement must be provided for the replacement item when submitting your proposal.</p>
<p>As an alternate to ALSDE Item # 10211 (1% Chocolate Milk), would you accept Fat Free Chocolate Milk and/or 1% Chocolate Lactose Free? Both would meet the lower added sugar requirements.</p>	<p>If an item specified in the RFP has been discontinued by the MFG and replaced with another similar item, the replacement item can be offered. An official MFG nutritional analysis and crediting statement must be provided for the replacement item when submitting your proposal.</p>
<p>1.) If bidding alternates, how do we add lines to the excel pricing spreadsheet?</p> <p>2.) Are samples required for an alternate to be approved, or will nutritional spec sheets be sufficient.</p>	<p>The updated spreadsheet has columns M for offering an alternate MFG and Brand, and column N for the alternate MFG Item #.</p> <p>Samples are not required. However, an official MFG nutritional analysis and crediting statement must be provided for the alternate item when submitting your proposal.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is this bid to be submitted? Email or physically mailed? Please confirm the email or physical address. • Do you have a check list of what needs to be returned in the bid package? Are there attachments other than the Food Items Group A Excel file? 	<p>Revised submittal instructions are on page one of the published boilerplate titled 0000 RFP 2026 03A STATEWIDE FOOD DIST- CNP AMENDED - MAIL-USB ONLY</p>

<p>Are samples required for this bid?</p>	<p>Samples are not required.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are vendors permitted to bid on line items for which they are not currently approved? 2. If approval is required prior to bidding, what is the process and timeline to have an item reviewed and approved by ALSDE so that it can be included in our bid submission? 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>From Section 1.3 of the RFP Boilerplate “Evaluation Criteria: Lowest line item or bottom-line pricing for item which meets or exceeds item specifications”. An official MFG nutritional analysis and crediting statement must be provided for the alternate item when submitting your proposal.</p>
<p>Can you kindly advise frequency in which you will be ordering by chance? We are just trying to determine the best freight bracket for pricing.</p> <p>Also, can you kindly clarify if we are able to bid like items or only approved brand items only?</p>	<p>Orders to MFGs shall be placed by the distributor(s) awarded from the separate Group B Warehousing and Distribution RFP# 2026-07; order frequency shall be determined by them based upon the traditional factors involved between distributors and MFGs.</p> <p>The amended spreadsheet has columns M for offering an alternate MFG and Brand, and column N for the alternate MFG Item #. An official MFG nutritional analysis and crediting statement must be provided for the alternate item when submitting your proposal.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Appendix A only need to be filled out if a contract is awarded or does it need to be submitted with the bid documents • Do I only bid on items that are Spec’d for my MFG? • Do we need to submit any samples • Is there supposed to be a signature section on the RFP Proposal Packet labeled- 0000 RFP 2026-03 STATEWIDE FOOD DIST- CNP FINAL 3-2. I don’t see anywhere to sign? • Do I need to complete the Alabama Vendor Disclosure Statement? 	<p>Revised submittal instructions are on page one of the published boilerplate titled 0000 RFP 2026-03A STATEWIDE FOOD DIST- CNP AMENDED - MAIL-USB ONLY</p> <p>Please submit pricing for the items listed under your MFG name. You may also offer your branded items for other MFGs listed items if they meet or exceed the quality level of the listed item. Samples are not needed. The spreadsheet has columns M for offering an alternate MFG and Brand, and column N for the alternate MFG Item #. An official MFG nutritional analysis and crediting statement must be provided for the alternate item when submitting your proposal.</p> <p>The notarized signature on “Appendix A” shall be sufficient for the entire proposal submitted.</p>

<p>Hello, I am reaching out from XXXXX to ask about the method of submission. The only option I have for submission in the portal is 'Print for Mailing". However, the RFP states responses must be submitted electronically. How should I proceed with the submission?</p>	<p>Revised submittal instructions are on page one of the published boilerplate titled 0000 RFP 2026-03A STATEWIDE FOOD DIST- CNP AMENDED - MAIL-USB ONLY</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on the new spreadsheet posted 3/10/26, RFP_202633_RFP2026-03FoodItemsGrpA_v1 Amendment 2, if our product code information is different from Column C & D, how do we update this as the fields are locked? 2. Column N, MFG #, can we reformulate the column to a number without the comma (,)? 3. ALSDE Item #16507: the Item Description states Pizza, French Bread 8", 100% Mozzarella, Cheese, WG but the Manufacturer item listed (60WUMP2) is a pepperoni. Please clarify if this spec is for 100% cheese or 100% pepperoni? 4. Are Summary End Product Data Schedules (SEPDS) required to be included in this submission? 	<p>The spreadsheet has columns M for offering an alternate MFG and Brand, and column N for the alternate MFG Item #.</p> <p>Please use Column N in its' current format.</p> <p>The description should read "Pizza, French Bread 8", 100% Mozzarella, Pepperoni, WG".</p> <p>No.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">AMENDED RFP 2026-03 3-13-26</p>	<p>Please note an amended version of the RFP boilerplate has been published with changes to the submission process for your proposals. These changes are shown on page one of the amended RFP document titled "0000 RFP 2026-03A STATEWIDE FOOD DIST- CNP AMENDED - MAIL-USB ONLY".</p>