



BackPack Program: *Food for Kids*

The BackPack Program: *Food for Kids* is only for children believed to be chronically hungry. The program provides a sack of food for a child to have placed in their backpack on Fridays. Children included in the program might otherwise have little to no food over the weekend. To help identify a child in need, please refer to the following behaviors that the child may display.

- Rushing food lines
- Extreme hunger on Monday morning
- Quickly eating all of the food served and asking for more
- Asking when the next meal/snack will be served
- Regularly asking their teacher for food
- Saving/hoarding/stealing food to take home for themselves and/or a sibling
- Linger around for or asking for seconds
- Comments about not having enough food at home
- Asking classmates for food they don't want

Other factors that may be present and may help you identify a chronically hungry child:

Physical Appearance -

- Extreme thinness
- Puffy/swollen skin
- Chronically dry/cracked lips
- Chronically dry and itchy eyes

School Performance –

- Excessive absences and/or tardiness
- Repetition of a grade
- Chronic sickness
- Short attention span / inability to concentrate
- Chronic behavior problems (hyperactive, irritable, anxious, etc.)

Home Environment –

- Often cooks own meal, or has a sibling who does
- Moves frequently
- Loss of household income
- Family crisis