

Perry County Backpack Program
Registration Information
2019-2020 School Year

Perry County Backpack Program
PO Box 37 • 300A South Carlisle Street
New Bloomfield, PA 17068
717.582.9978
pcbbackpack@gmail.com

"Fighting Childhood Hunger One Backpack at a Time"

Dear Parent/Guardian,

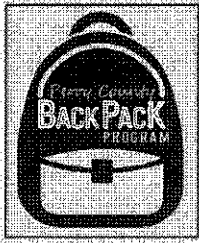
We are pleased to announce that we will be offering the Backpack Program during the 2019-2020 school year at all elementary schools in Perry County. The Backpack Program is facilitated through the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and is designed to meet the hunger needs of children over the weekends when school resources are not available. Each week the Backpack Program serves approximately 500 children by providing them with a bag of nutritious food to be eaten over the weekend. We are excited for the opportunity to support our community through this program and encourage you to take the time to decide if this program is right for you.

Specific information about the Backpack Program can be found below. Additionally, a registration form and answers to frequently asked questions are attached for your convenience. If you are interested in participating in the Backpack Program, please fill out the attached form and return it to your school office by the enrollment deadline in order to be included in the first distribution. A distribution schedule and additional information will be sent to you once you enroll.

BackPack Program Details for the 2019/2020 School Year

Enrollment Deadline: Monday, September 9
Program Start Date: Friday, September 27
Weekly Distribution Day: Every Friday school is in session

* You can enroll at any time during the school year!



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BackPack Program Frequently Asked Questions

Who Qualifies?

This program is open to any Perry County **elementary student** enrolled at a participating school. Most assistance programs require families to document hardship before they are accepted. However, the Backpack Program has no income requirements and no family is ever turned away. The goal of the program is to meet a child's nutritional needs regardless of their circumstances or level of hardship. All you have to do is register!

How Does It Work?

Once a child enrolls in the program, they will receive a welcome letter that provides specific information about their school's distribution. Please note that if you have more than one child enrolled in the program, each child will be given their own bag. Once enrolled, your child will receive a bag every Friday that school is in session. Although this is a "BackPack Program", children will not actually be receiving backpacks. Previous experience with the program has shown that when backpacks are sent home, families often forget to return them after the weekend. This limits the ability to pack the distribution for the following weekend. Therefore, to ensure each child consistently receives weekly distributions, items will be packed in grocery bags and sent home with students. It is likely that the larger distribution sent home for Christmas break will be packed in backpacks which your child may keep as a gift.

What Kind of Food Can I Expect?

Although food items vary week to week, students will generally receive enough food to cover 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, and several snacks. Food items are non-perishable and kid-friendly and we strive to offer a varied menu each week.

Does It Cost Anything?

This program is provided completely free of charge thanks to the generous support of private donors, grant programs, and established partnerships with the Perry County Food Bank and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

How Do I Enroll?

Enrollment is handled through your child's elementary school. Although it is recommended that you enroll at the beginning of the school year, the Backpack Program maintains open enrollment and families can enroll at any time. All students will receive a registration packet at the beginning of each school year or you can call your school office if you do not receive one. If you are interested in participating in the Backpack Program, please fill out the form in the packet and return it to your school office. For more information, please contact your school office or email questions to pckbackpack@gmail.com.