



Portland Backpacks for Bellies

Free Weekend Food for your Child

Portland Backpacks for Bellies is teaming up with Portland Public Schools teachers and staff to offer weekend meals and snacks to children, free of charge. Any child enrolled in Portland Public Schools is eligible to request these weekly bags of food, although the number of students we can accommodate will always depend on our ability to raise funds to cover the costs. Teachers will distribute the bags to participating students on the last school day before the weekend. Each bag will include snacks, breakfasts, and lunches of easy-to-prepare, shelf-stable foods such as instant oatmeal, fruit cups, and microwavable macaroni and cheese.

If your child could benefit from this program, we encourage you to sign up by filling out the attached form and returning it to the front office at your child's school. Please submit one copy of the form per family, listing the requested information for each child. Portland Public Schools staff will not share your information with Backpacks for Bellies. Instead, school staff will simply tell us how many eligible students they have.

Once a request is approved, that child will receive food each week until they leave the school or until you no longer wish to participate. We encourage you to take advantage of this program if it can help your children.

Phase 1

We have funding to start the program with 50 students, with weekend meals starting Friday, March 1. Return the attached form to your child's (or children's) school by February 22 to be considered for Phase 1.

Future phases

We will add children to the program as we raise more funds. So please complete the attached form to be added to the waiting list.

How you can help

Whether your child participates or not, we can always use your help. If you're able to do so, please complete that portion of the form, whether you request food or not. The school will share your contact with us but will not tell Backpack for Bellies volunteers whether your child is participating in the program.

Questions or concerns? Please contact the office at your child's school.