

Douglas County Backpack Buddies Programs 2019/2020 Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS:

The 2019/2020 was completed by School Program Coordinators in January and February 2020 and the following report is a summary of the responses from 223 Backpack Buddies participants.

Number of Unduplicated Students Served:

The survey asked school program coordinators to count the total number of students served year-to-date for 2019/2020. This number gives us the total number of students served (unduplicated) and differs from the counts taken weekly of the students in program and the number of bags requested. The weekly number does not capture those leaving and starting the program. To date (February 2020) a total number of students served is 249. High/Middle school students represent 108 or 44% and Elementary students represent 141 or 56%. Of this total 13 students are not currently participating in the Backpack Buddies Program for various reasons (moved, no longer need the service). This continues the decline from the previous year indicating that students/families are not moving away or do not have a change in their economic situation allowing the student to leave the program. In 2019/2020 the Backpack Buddies Program served approximately 30 additional students through various summer programs bringing the total served to 279 students.

Number of Students Surveyed:

Middle and High School:	108	44%
Elementary School:	<u>141</u>	56%
The total number of students surveyed:	249	

Survey Respondents:

Survey's were completed either through contact with parents, the student's teacher, or, as a final resort, an interview with the student. Responses were received from:

Parent:	18%
Teacher:	71%
Student:	11%

Ethnicity:

White: 65% African American: 7% Hispanic: 18% Native American: 7% Other 3%

Length of Time in Program:

The survey requested the school program coordinators to note the length of time the students surveyed have been in the program. It is important to remember that as students graduate from elementary to middle and middle to high school there is no consistent mechanism in place to note their continued participation in the program. The results for length of time in program were as follows:

Less than 6 months:	39%
6 months to 1 year:	20%
1 year to 2 years:	16%
Greater than 2 years:	25%

Gender Male: 50% Female: 50%

Grade level:

Pre K, K	8%	6 th grade:	10%
1st grade:	7%	7 th grade:	10%
2 nd grade:	8%	8 th grade:	9%
3 rd grade:	9%	9 th grade:	4%
4 th grade:	14%	10 th grade:	4%
5 th grade:	<u>10%</u>	11 th grade:	3%
		12 th grade:	<u>4%</u>
TOTAL:	56%		44%

Survey Questions:

Standardized questions for student's in the program since the beginning of the academic school year were designed to ascertain improvement in any behavioral issues, in academic performance, and in attendance based on the student's participation in the Backpack Buddies Program

1. Improvement in Behavior

Yes:	56%
No:	17%
Unknown:	18%
No improvement needed:	9%

2. Improvement in Academic Performance

Yes:	47%
No:	19%
Unknown:	20%
No improvement needed:	14%

3. Improvement in Attendance:

Yes:	58%
No:	7%
Unknown:	15%
No improvement needed:	20%

A single question was asked to those students who have been in the program over 6 months to ascertain if the student continues to benefit from the Program.

1. Does the student continue to benefit from participation in the Program?

Yes:	91%
No:	9%

The survey results point to a greater number of students recently starting the program (39% since the start of the school year and a total of 59% new to the program within the last year). The overall total number of students served is estimated to be the same as last year, about 300. This may reflect some economic stabilization in low income families. The number of weekend food bags distributed is approximately 5% less than last year, but, of importance, is that for many students, when they enter the program they remain (41% have been in the program for longer than one year). The majority of responses, mainly from teachers and parents (89%), indicate that the weekend backpack of food helps to improve behavior, increase academic performance and improve attendance and that students that stay on the program continue to benefit in all of these ways. 91% of the responses for students in the program longer than six months say that the student continues to benefit from participating in the program. Several program coordinators noted that students express how grateful they are for the food bags and parents/teachers feel that the supplemental weekend food plays a strong role in helping the student to be successful. Additionally, several respondents mentioned that the Program provides a strong and necessary "safety net" to student's who do not have adequate nutritional support at home.