

Douglas County Backpack Buddies Programs 2024/2025 Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS:

The 2024/2025 survey was completed by school program coordinator;s in January - February 2025 and the following report is a summary of the responses from 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 2024/2025. 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. As of March 2025, the total number of students served is 264, the same as last year. High/Middle school students represent 34% and Elementary students represent 66%. Of this total 10 students are not currently participating in the Backpack Buddies Program for various reasons (moved, no longer need the service). Incorporated in these totals are approximately 10 students served through various summer programs and outreach programs through the Carson Valley Community Food Closet.

Number of Students Surveyed:

Middle and High School:	89	34%
Elementary School:	<u>175</u>	66%
The total number of students surveyed:	264	

Survey Respondents:

The surveys 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:	23%
Teacher:	69%
Student:	8%

Ethnicity:

White: 57% African American: 6% Hispanic: 23% Native American: 10% Asian: 4%

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:	43%
6 months to 1 year:	22%
1 year to 2 years:	18%
Greater than 2 years:	17%

Gender Male: 55% Female: 45%

Grade level:

Pre K, K	12%	6 th grade:	9%
1st grade:	10%	7 th grade:	8%
2 nd grade:	9%	8 th grade:	11%
3 rd grade:	15%	9 th grade:	3%
4 th grade:	8%	10 th grade:	1%
5 th grade:	<u>12%</u>	11 th grade:	2%
		12 th grade:	<u>0%</u>
TOTAL:	66%		34%

Survey Questions:

Standardized questions for students 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:	65%
No:	13%
Unknown:	6%
No improvement needed:	16%

2. Improvement in Academic Performance

Yes:	76%
No:	5%
Unknown:	10%
No improvement needed:	9%

3. Improvement in Attendance:

Yes:	73%
No:	6%
Unknown:	3%
No improvement needed:	18%

Also asked of those students who have been in the program longer than 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%

2. Is the amount of food in the weekend food bag adequate?

Yes: 91%

The survey results point to a greater number of students recently starting the program (43% since the start of the school year and a total of 65% 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 275. The number of weekend food bags distributed is greater than last year, but, of importance, is that for many students, when they enter the program, they remain (35% have been in the program for longer than one year). The majority of the responses, mainly from teachers and parents (92%), 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. For the first time program coordinators at middle and high schools stated that the food bags were not adequate (currently 14.5 pounds). 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 students who do not have adequate nutritional support at home.

For the first time program coordinators were asked two questions as an attempt to get a better idea of the home situation and the reasons that the student is in the program. Responses noted that the majority of the students live at home with two parents present and that the parent (s) income is too low to provide adequate food.