

MCPS GIVE BACKpacks FAQs



How can I donate to the GIVE BACKpacks campaign?

- 1) Donate by check – Make check payable to: “MCPS Educational Foundation”
If applicable, note the school you are donating to in the memo line
Mail check to:
MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc.
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149
Rockville, MD 20850
- 2) Donate online using: www.mcpsgivebackpacks.org
- 3) [Donate via text message:](#)
 - Text ‘Backpack’ to 301-329-2238
 - A reply will ask, “How much would you like to give?”
 - Enter your donation amount (minimum of \$5 is required)
 - Respond to the reply, “Would you like this gift to be recurring?” Enter “yes” or “no”
 - Enter your credit/debit card and billing information, and you’re done!

Can I sponsor a school in my neighborhood?

- You can direct your donation to a school of your choice. Please contact 240-740-3165 for information on sponsorships.

When is the deadline to donate?

- The GIVE BACKpacks campaign receives and accepts donations all year. If the donation is received after October, it is typically included in the following year’s campaign.

Where can students get free backpacks? How are students selected to receive free backpacks and supplies?

- Backpacks with school supplies will be delivered directly to schools. Each school’s administrative team decides on the best process to distribute backpacks to students in need.

Who does my donation support?

- General donations are directed to the overall campaign to supply backpacks to schools with the highest FARMS percentages, unless stated otherwise. All donations support principal requests for backpacks for students in need.

What supplies are in the backpacks?

- Our campaign is for monetary donations. With every \$20 donation, a student will receive a backpack filled with school supplies. The campaign offers schools supply kit options, which allows for schools to choose which supplies best meet their school's needs. Below is the list of school supplies that will be included in the backpacks for each level.

Elementary Supply Options		
Bundle #1-General <ul style="list-style-type: none">#2 Pencils (12 pack)Plastic pencil boxCrayola Brand Crayons (24 pack)Glue stick, .26 oz., washable whiteComposition book, 100 sheets, wide ruleScissors (blunt tip)Pencil & crayon sharpener(2) 2 pocket folders(2) block erasers	Bundle # 2-Primary <p>Includes all items from Option #1, except:</p> <p>The composition book is a primary composition book.</p>	Bundle #3-Upper Elementary <p>Includes all items from Option #1 except:</p> <p>The crayons are replaced with sharpened colored pencils (12 pack) and 2 Highlighters.</p>
Secondary Supply Options		
Bundle #1-Folders/Spiral Notebooks <ul style="list-style-type: none">#2 Pencils (12 pack)Pens, black (6 pack)(2) Block erasersPencil pouch(2) Highlighters(5) 2 pocket folders(3) Spiral notebooks with holes	Bundle #2-Binders <ul style="list-style-type: none">#2 Pencils (12 pack)Pens, black (6 pack)(2) Block erasersPencil Pouch(2) Highlighters3-ring dividers, 5 tab (1 pack)Filler paper, 100 sheets wide-rule (1 pack)(2) 1" 3 Ring binders	

Can I donate (in-kind) backpacks and school supplies?

- If an organization wishes to donate backpacks to a school, please contact 240-740-3165 for suggestions.

How do I learn more about GIVE BACKpacks?

- The GIVE BACKpacks campaign raises funds to purchase backpacks for students who qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS). The quantity of

backpacks purchased is based solely on the amount of donations received. Our goal for 2025-2026 is to raise enough funds to purchase 30,000 backpacks with school supplies. Our ideal goal is to purchase 70,000 backpacks.

- Visit www.mcpsgivebackpacks.org, call 240-740-3165 or email Sabrina_B_Bertoni@mcpsmd.org.

When will schools receive backpacks?

- Backpacks will be delivered to schools starting two weeks before school starts and will continue to be delivered as donations come in.

How are schools chosen to receive backpacks?

- The number of backpacks and school supplies ordered is based on the amount of funds donated.
- Schools are selected based on the percentage of students who qualify for Free and Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMS). We start with the schools with the highest percentage and work down the list. This list changes each year based on donations and FARMS percentages.
- Backpacks are also provided to the International Admissions and Enrollment Office.
- Backpacks also will be sent to schools who have a donation specified for their school.