



Hamilton County School District

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November 1, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

We are pleased to announce that the Hamilton County School District will continue to assist economically disadvantaged students through our Food Backpack Program this year. Beginning in November, our School Safety & Mental Health Department in coordination with Food Services and our Federal Programs Office will begin sending backpacks home with up to 100 students in Grades 3-6th. Each month, these backpacks will be filled with nutritious food items designed to help feed children in need. According to Feed America, 21.5% of the population in Hamilton County is food insecure; thus, many of our students lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food when they are away from our school campus.

There is no doubt that economic hardships and lack of food on weekends or during the holiday season can greatly impact a student's mental health and overall well-being. These adverse conditions can affect student achievement, self-esteem, and can often generate signs and symptoms of potential mental health disorders. That is why we need your help. If you or your organization would like to contribute to this meaningful endeavor, please review the food items on our attached flyer. Food donations can be delivered by the third Monday of each month to the Safety Annex on the Hamilton County School District campus.

If you have any questions regarding our Food Backpack Program, please contact us at any time. You can submit an e-mail to Ms. Tiffany Criswell at tiffany.criswell@hamiltonfl.com, 386-792-8128 or you can contact me at chris.combass@hamiltonfl.com, 386-792-7814. If you or your organization would like to participate in this initiative, please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hcsdbackpack> so that we can keep track of items being donated and ensure that we have a variety of items each month. On behalf of the Food Backpack Program Committee, thank you for your support! Together, we are truly making a difference!

Sincerely,

Food Backpack Program Committee
Hamilton County School District

"Ensuring a Successful Future for Every Student"

www.hamiltonfl.com/safety