

# The Richland Wilkin Backpack Program

*Nourishing our Future*

Dear Parent,

Each of the students of your child's school has been invited to participate in the 2022-2023 Richland Wilkin Backpack Program. Childhood hunger continues to have an impact in our community. Hungry children suffer physical, emotional, and developmental impairment, and studies show they don't learn as well at school.

The Backpack Program provides a bag of kid-friendly, shelf stable food for your child to take home and eat over the weekend. This bag is placed discreetly into their school backpack. They will receive foods such as macaroni and cheese, canned meals, cereal, pudding, soup, fruit juice, granola bars, and other items. With your approval, we will send a bag of food home with your child each week -- usually on Friday during the school year (or the last school day of a short school week). If you have more than one child in Head Start, or elementary grades K-5 in the school district, each child can receive food for the weekend.

**Parents are responsible for checking items in the bag for any potential food allergies.**

The Richland Wilkin Backpack Program is funded through grants and private donations so there is no charge. There are no income guidelines and participation is voluntary. If you do not have a need in your home for hunger assistance, your child and family may participate by making monetary or food donations.

We respect your privacy. The information you share to participate in this program is kept confidential. The registration forms are maintained at the Head Start office or the school district office.

Please indicate below if you would like your child/children to participate in the program.

Yes, I would like my child to receive food from the Backpack Program. Please complete information below:

Child's Name

Please let your child know they will be receiving the food and remind them not to open the bag on the bus.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Head Start Office or the school office or send with your child to school. If you have any questions, please contact the Richland Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry at [RWFoodPantry@outlook.com](mailto:RWFoodPantry@outlook.com).