2026-2027 BEAR Necessities: Backpack Program
Free Weekend Food For Your Child

Distribution will begin on Sept. 4

The AHS Leadership class provides the BEAR Necessities: Backpack Program for Pre-K through fourth-grade students who qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program. This is not a government program—every meal and supply is funded through grants and donations. Our local **Mason's can-recycling** efforts are one of our major supporters.

If your child would benefit from this program, please complete the form below and return it to the front office or classroom teacher. Only one form is needed per household, but be sure to include information for each child. All information is kept confidential.

To be eligible for the distribution, you MUST return the completed free and reduced lunch form and qualify for the free/reduced lunch program.

If there's food in our bags that your family doesn't like or can't use, please do one of the following:
1) give to another family; **2)** send it back to us; **3)** donate to the DOCO Blessings Box, or **4)** donate it to the Heart of the Hills Food Pantry**.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!

	First Name	Last Name	Teacher	Grade (ONLY PreK- Grade 4)
Child 1				
Child 2				
Child 3				
Child 4				

Please Check One:

_____ I **do not** wish my child(ren) to participate in the BEAR Necessities: Backpack Program. I understand I can enroll them at a later time.

_____I would like to enroll my child(ren) in the Backpack Program. By signing up, I acknowledge that my child(ren) will begin to receive a weekly bag of food for weekend use. Please note: Students must bring their backpacks to school on Fridays to receive their food allocation.

I grant permission to the Ava R-I School District to share Free and Reduced lunch qualification information with the Backpack Program organizers.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____**Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Questions or concerns? Please contact Julie Taylor @ 683-5747, ext. 1304 or jtaylor@avabears.net