

June 27, 2013

**Objective:** To assess the impact of the Backpack program at Mayfair Elementary.

A total of 43 surveys were completed and received from the parents of children enrolled in the Backpack program at Mayfair Elementary. Of those 43 surveys, 17 were completed in English and 26 were completed in Spanish. The English and Spanish surveys did have some variances in questions which is why the results are listed separately.

**Findings:** The surveys found that 90% of both the English and Spanish parents think that the food provided is easy for the children to open and prepare. The vast majority of parents are also helping their children prepare the food. The opinion was equally split when it came to whether the food lasted just Saturday or all weekend long. The food is being shared amongst the family in 75% of the homes while the other 25% is saved just for the child. 90% of the families also agree that the child has had no problems getting the bag home, while 10% complained that it was too heavy. The surveys showed that overwhelming majority of both parents and children very much look forward to getting the backpack each week. When asked what the child's favorite food in the bag is, the most common response was fruit. Milk and juice were other popular choices that were listed. Regarding the child's least favorite food, beans was the most common answer. Fresh fruits and vegetables and fruit cup were the two items that received the highest ratings amongst both groups. Granola, juice, and rice were also ranked high between the two groups. No trends were identified in the items that are not liked in the backpack, while most families agreed that all foods provided in the backpack are eaten. When parents were asked what foods they would like to have in the backpack many listed tuna and peanut butter as items that they desired. Other items that were commonly listed were more fresh produce, granola, and juice. A little over half of parents reported that their children's attendance, behavior, class participation, and grades have improved since starting the backpack program, while close to 40% reported that it has remained the same. No families reported that their child felt embarrassed about receiving a backpack and most reported feeling happy and very thankful for the food.

**Summary:** The survey found that most families are very satisfied with the backpack program and that in general the foods that are given are well liked. Fresh produce was a common request amongst families. A higher percentage of Spanish surveys had questions that were left blank which makes me suspect that not all of the questions were fully understood. Many families expressed how thankful they were and how much this program helps their family. Only 1 teacher survey was returned; therefore, I was unable to identify any trends.