

**From:** [Laurie Namey](#)  
**To:** [Danielle Lueking](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bookbags/backpacks  
**Date:** Friday, September 19, 2025 12:03:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Laurie Namey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 7:59 AM  
**To:** Jen Robinson <Jen\_Robinson@hcpss.org>; Diane Morris <Diane\_Morris@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** Bookbags/backpacks

Jen, Diane,

Here is the list of schools and their plans for backpack/bookbag limitations as well as an excerpt from an email I sent to principals who are considering this (at end of this email). As you know, both Glenwood Middle School and Hammond Middle School began these restrictions last year with great success. Middle school principals who are limiting the use of backpacks and bookbags during the instructional day have shared that they wish to promote a safer, more efficient, and more accessible school environment.

**The main points:**

1. **Hallway Traffic and Safety:** Backpacks increase congestion during class transitions. Restricting their use minimizes crowding and reduces the risk of accidents during high-traffic times. This was especially noted in smaller hallway buildings like HMS, DMS.
2. **Mitigating Safety risks:** Limiting bags decreases opportunities for students to carry or conceal prohibited items, enhancing overall school safety and security.
3. **Classroom Space and Accessibility:** In smaller classrooms, bags left in aisles or along the floor create tripping hazards and impact mobility. This limits teachers' ability to circulate and provide equitable access to instruction for all students. It also creates difficulties for students moving around the classroom.

## Middle School BackPack/Bookbag Limitations

School	Backpack/Bookbag Restrictions	Timeline of Start
BBMS	Yes	Start of 25-26
BMMS	Possible	Mid Year 25-26
CMS	No	NA
DMS	Yes	End of 1st Qtr.
EMMS	No	N/A
ELMS	Possible	Mid Year 25-26
FQMS	Yes	Start of 25-26
GMS	Yes	SY 24-25
HaMS	Yes	SY 24-25
HCMS	Yes	SY 25-26
LEMS	No	N/A
LKMS	Possible	Mid Year 25-26
MWMS	No	NA
MVMS	No	n/a
MHMS	No	N/A
OMMS		
PMS	Possible	Mid 25-26
PVMS		
TVMS	No	
WLMS	No	

Below is an excerpt from an email I sent to principals who are considering this:  
A couple things I want to reiterate and as modeled by Principal Smith:

- Be sure to have a clear why in our decision making and make sure families and students are aware of our rationale. It is not enough to say "safety" because we know it's much more than that.
- Be sure that you have enough working lockers so that student belongings will be safely stored.
- Have a schedule that allows for students to go to their locker at different times throughout the day.
- Build in practice time week 1 for students to use their lockers.

- Work with your teachers to help plan and clearly articulate what students will need each day in their classes.

I have found that having a few students or parents as part of the initial problem-solving conversations help with galvanizing support from others as you move forward with this process.

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