



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**THIS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
GIVING MORE THAN 1,000 BACKPACKS, FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES, TO NYC
CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

*Throughout August, ACS Is Hosting "Back to School Fairs" for NYC Children Across the City;
Donations Provided to Community Help to Bridge the Gap Between What Students Need and
What Families Can Afford*

NEW YORK, NY – Ahead of the first day of school, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell today announced that over 1,000 backpacks, stuffed with school supplies, are being provided to students across New York City. Throughout the month of August, ACS has been hosting "Back to School Fairs" in which children of all ages can participate and receive free backpacks, notebooks, binders, loose paper, pens, pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, erasers and more. The supplies have been generously donated to ACS by members of the community.

"This back-to-school season, we want to make sure that accessing school supplies is as easy as ABC," **said Commissioner David A. Hansell.** "We know that when students have the supplies they need to learn, their attendance improves, their engagement in the classroom improves, and their attendance rates go up. That's why, all monthlong, ACS is giving away free backpacks and school supplies to New York City children at our "Back to School Fairs" across New York City. Thank you to our community partners for generously donating these school supplies and helping ensure NYC families have the resources they need in the new school year."

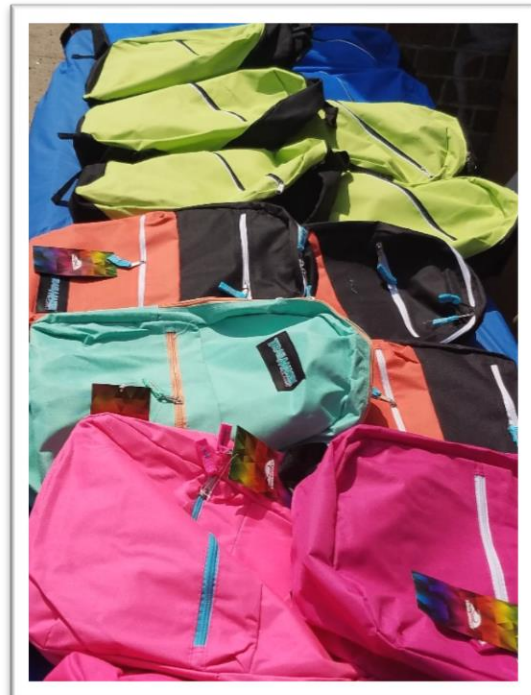
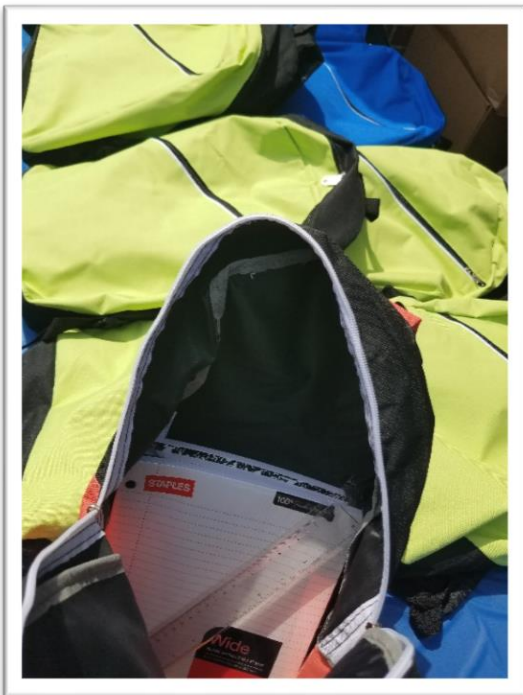
According to a recent survey conducted by the National Retail Federation, across the country, average planned spending per household, for families with children in elementary school through high school, is \$696.70; that's up from 548.72 just 10 years ago. According to the New York City Department of Education, the NYC school system is the largest school district in the country with over 1.1 million students, 74% of whom are economically disadvantaged. The annual "Back to School Fairs," hosted by ACS, aim to help bridge the gap between what students need and what families can afford.

More and more, with the creation of a new Division of Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB), ACS has been working to help families much earlier by engaging families before they ever reach the child welfare system and provide them with resources and services needed to thrive. Additionally, each year child protection specialists (CPS) investigate approximately 60,000 reports of child abuse or neglect in New York City, in response to calls to the state hotline. As they identify needs, CPS provide thousands of families each year with services ranging from

free food and cribs to mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment. ACS works closely with families, community members, teachers, doctors, nurses, childcare providers, police, homeless shelter staff, and others to understand families' needs and provide support to children and families.

Below is a list of the remaining "Back to School Fairs" hosted by ACS:

- Thursday, August 22nd from 11am-4pm at 404 Pine Street in Brooklyn
- Friday, August 23rd from 11am-4pm at 185 Marcy Avenue in Brooklyn
- Friday, August 23rd from 11am-3pm at Marcus Garvey Park at 120th and Madison Ave in Manhattan
- Thursday, August 29th from 11am-4pm at 2554 Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn
- Thursday, August 29th from 12:30pm-3:30pm at Poe Park East 192 Street Grand Concourse in the Bronx
- Friday, August 30th from 12pm-3pm at 974 Morris Park Avenue in the Bronx



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