

# No Student Goes Hungry

Kenton Elementary School

Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Kenton Elementary is dedicated to provide a supportive environment to all students, families, and the broader school community. About 520 students attend Kenton, which has the highest percentage of homeless families in Aurora Public Schools (APS). It is common for students to come to school without coats, socks, proper shoes, breakfast or lunch, and some without a good night's sleep. Through multiple community partnerships, Kenton provides every Kenton family in need with healthy food for consistent meals, 7 days a week.

One portion of this initiative is called "Super Snack", which is part of APS' nutrition services. Kenton's assistant principal, family liaison, and parent volunteers help after school by making sure all students receive a snack and milk in the cafeteria before going home. Teachers bring their students after school to pick up a "Super Snack" and eat it before the after school program begins.

Kenton staff also continue the "No Student Goes Hungry" initiative during lunch. Cafeteria managers and staff have the students line up, get lunch, and then walk around the tables to inspect the students' lunches. If a student brings something small from home to eat, they are encouraged to also eat school lunch to make sure they are eating from all the five food groups. Kitchen managers and staff also provide breakfast to all classrooms in the morning and help clean up so that all students get to eat before class lectures begin.

Food Bank of the Rockies also supports Kenton's goal. The organization provides students with healthy meals to eat over the weekend. Some families do not use all of the donations. The family liaison encourages families to bring food items from the food bags that they don't need to the office in order to provide these food items to other families who need additional food.

Hearing the positive comments from the parents have encourage Kenton staff to continue the practice. Parents who come to school looking for weekly bags are always happy to know Kenton can help with additional food. Families come with younger children who are not school age to eat with their siblings during After School Snack.

The entire program has been a huge help for Kenton families and a community-wide endeavor. Secure a Christian picked-up and delivered the 125 food bags from the food bank to the school. Having volunteer helpers is what makes it possible for the school to be able to offer additional food and supervision during distribution and afterschool snack.

Kenton's principal Mr. Holscher states: "In order to make a difference in what we believe in, we need to do it often, every day or it won't work." When the whole school works together to make these programs and other educational programs happen, the entire community feels the impact of "No student goes hungry." Mrs. Hirsch, assistant principal at Kenton, stated, "The school climate has shifted and feels incredibly welcoming for students and their families."

Standard 6—Collaborating with the Community