

Hoover School Community Information Network Backpack Survey

October 12 through November 9, 2007

103 Viewed 74 Completed

Average Time to Take Survey 4 Minutes

(1) Do you have a child/children currently enrolled in Hoover City Schools?

96% Yes

4% No

(2) What grade(s) are your children currently enrolled in?

12% PK-2

23% 3-5

30% 6-8

35% 9-12

(3) Does your child use a backpack?

100% Yes

0% No

(4) If your child uses a backpack, does your child use a traditional or rolling backpack?

96% Traditional

0% Rolling

4% Other: book bag, messenger bag, one uses a traditional, one uses a messenger bag.

(5) Please explain why your child uses the type of backpack indicated in the previous question.

He thinks rolling backpacks are dumb.
It's what we bought them. They have a lifetime warranty from LL Bean
Rolling backpacks are too much trouble, slow down students (and car pools), encourages students to bring unnecessary "stuff".
The school will not allow rolling and I am not sure my children would use it if they could.
It is what he wanted
We were told that a rolling backpack will harm the floors of the school and that they were dangerous
The handbook advises that rolling types are not allowed.
Easy to carry. Distributes weight evenly.
only one allowed
She thinks the rolling ones are not cool. And I haven't seen anyone else use them either. Oh, and she says that they won't fit in her locker.
Rolling backpacks not allowed

Rolling backpacks are not allowed.
Rolling won't fit in locker
Rolling backpacks are prohibited at Spain Park unless a doctor's excuse is provided.
Rolling backpacks are not allowed - and besides they "make you look like a dork"! Also, my guess is that they would not fit in the lockers.
it seems that it is the roomiest one available.
To carry books
It's the only kind allowed????
One uses a traditional backpack. He picked it out and thinks it's very cool. The other, a 9th grader, is using a book bag (carried over-the- shoulder) instead of a traditional backpack this year. She wanted it because some of her friends had them last year and she thought it would be better and easier.
personal preference
Rolling not allowed, no choice
rolling backpacks are cumbersome, uncool, and don't fit easily in lockers or your lap in the car or on the bus
It is my understanding that the traditional style is the style that is preferred by the schools.
Rolling backpacks are not allowed.
rolling back packs don't work with all the steps at high school
This is the type of backpack we purchased
Rolling backpacks are against the rules
It is easiest to maneuver around the school.
Traditional backpack is what is allowed and all that they need at this time.
Rolling backpacks are not allowed and they are harder to lift and negotiate upstairs
a satchel type bag for carrying books
Rolling pack are not allowed. The across the pack is hard to get into and the weight distribution is not centered.
you can't use a rolling backpack on a bus and any kid wouldn't be caught dead with a rolling pack.
school rules at SMS school rules at HHS and not aware that rolling where allowed
School does not allow rolling backpacks!
Hoover School system does not allow the rolling backpacks due to safety of their students. I agree with this policy. However, I am concerned about the weight of backpacks on our growing children.
Our schools, SME and Berry, will NOT allow the rolling backpack, so we use the traditional.
Rolling backpacks are bulky and are not allowed.
school policy
Rolling back packs are not allowed
Only type allowed. No rolling backpacks
School does not allow rolling!
rolling backpacks are prohibited
School system doesn't allow rolling backpacks

not enough time between classes to go to the locker. Classes are spread out on floors 1 thru 3 and then sometimes on opposite ends of a floor. The kids are only allowed a few minutes (I believe it is 5-6 minutes) to get from one class to another which does not allow them to go to their locker to get their work for the next class.
Likes it's size, was not aware we could use a rolling backpack.
Less expensive than rolling backpacks and easier to negotiate between car/bus and school.
bring folders, etc home from school
Have been told that rolling backpacks are against the rules because of damage or difficult to clean the floors
Rolling is against school policy, adds more weight when carrying up and down stairs.
rolling backpacks are not allowed in Hoover City schools
because it is easiest to carry and more comfortable than an overshoulder bag
1. we thought school policy did not allow rolling backpacks 2. our sons feel that they would be made fun of by their fellow students if they used a rolling backpack
This is what is expected and accepted. We are not allowed to question the admin. This has only brought problems for our children.
School rules--cannot use rolling backpack. Hunted the most durable and largest backpacks to carry all the books
rolling backpacks are not allowed
Style, ease of navigation in school hallways
I was under the impression that Rolling Backpacks were not allowed...which is silly!
Because BPES forbids the use of rolling backpacks.
Everybody uses them.
rolling packs are not safe
Rolling packs are not allowed by Hoover schools...which is ridiculous
Rolling backpacks are against the rules and over the shoulder kind put too much weight on the neck and one shoulder
My child who uses the messenger bag is trying to take some of the weight off her back.
bigger
Rolling backpacks are not allowed
That's what she wanted.
Rolling not allowed.

(6) Does your child carry a backpack:

51% Between classes (all day long)

44% Only to and from school

5% Other: Not sure; Probably takes 1-2 classes worth of books at a time; I don't know. They try not to tell me anything that specific. I know the 9th grader carries her bag most of the day because she doesn't have time to go to her locker between classes; high schooler all day long, 2nd grader to and from; She sometimes carries it between some of her classes.

(7) Are you concerned about the weight of your child's backpack?

90% Yes

10% No

(8) How often does your child complain about the weight of his backpack?

- 7% Never
- 18% Rarely
- 38% Often
- 21% Frequently
- 16% Always

(9) What is the weight of your child's backpack loaded with daily books, etc.? If you do not have access to your child's backpack at this time, please estimate as closely as possible.

_____ lbs.

25
With or without books
23
40# max. Depends on the amount of homework.
My 12th grader's backpack is so heavy i don't see how he carries it all day long. He doesn't use his locker because there is little time in between classes. My 5th grader who is small for her age carries a very heavy backpack because they keep a binder that contains all subjects (they switch classes at her ele. school in 5th grade). At least she only carries it to and from school.
30 lbs.
6 pounds
25 lbs
Probably around 20 lbs or so. I have to pick my daughter up from the bus stop - 3 blocks away - because her back hurts carrying the back pack. she is athletic and a pretty strong little girl. But, when she has more than 2 subjects, it gets pretty heavy.
30 lbs
26 pounds
25-30 lbs
24 pounds
10 lbs
Tonight it is 14 lbs. But it is the weekend, so no books for homework. Just everyday stuff.
3 lbs
Guessing, I'd say at least 20 lbs. I know it's a shoulder and back killer whenever I pick up their bags so that I can walk through the mudroom.
2-3 lbs.

25 lbs?
very heavy for me to lift and i work out with weights regularly
31 lbs.
We have weighed it anywhere from 25 lbs to 41 lbs.
K>1-2# 4>often reaches 10# 9>have weighed it at 32# 11>37#'s This child has begun to have curvature which has measured a little worse every year since 7th grade.
30 pounds
30 lbs
35lbs
40lbs
Her backpack is 40 pounds and she weights 115 pounds
10 pounds
It varies with the least being a few pounds and the most closer to 15. My daughter weighs less than 90 pounds so this is a concern.
15 pounds
My 8th grade sons pack weighs 46 pounds and my 5th grade daughters weighs 20 pounds.
over 25 pounds. she weighs around 115
15 lbs
6 lbs (estimation)
20 pounds
20-25 lbs.
15 - 20lbs
2nd grade - 5 to 8 pounds 6th grade - 15-20 pounds
sophomore 22lbs 2nd grader 6 lbs
about 20 pounds
SOme days as much as 20 pounds
agenda, binder (2lbs max)
5-10 lbs
15 - 20 lbs
at least 15 lbs. With those large text books it doesn't take many.
18-22lbs
15 pounds

5 lbs
20
43 lbs. (actual weight!)
17 lbs
about thirty pounds
7th grader (78# body wt) backpack 19# 9th grader (92# body wt) backpack 28#
15 to 30 lbs ?
25-30lbs-
15 pounds
35
This week, it has varied between 20 and 35 pounds!
It varies according to the number of textbooks required on each particular evening...I would guess anywhere from 3-10.
35 pounds!!!!!!!!!!
26-30 lbs on any given day for the high schooler
50 #
50lb
at least 15 lbs, sometimes more
22lbs
10 lbs.
15#
15lbs

(10) Does the weight of your child's backpack more than the recommended 15% of your child's body weight?

81% Yes

19% No

(11) How often does your child carry books or binders in addition to a backpack?

5% Never

27% Rarely

22% Often

10% Frequently

36% Always

(12) Have you ever consulted your child's doctor or other health care professional because of back pain that you associated with weight of your child's backpack?

24% Yes

76% No

(13) If yes, please elaborate.

The doctor said to use a different backpack.
The doctor has recommended against the heavy backpack, however there is nothing that we are able to do about it.
One of my sons has chronic back pain that his DR. said was caused by his backpack and that he often sees.
She checked his spine and determined that at some time in the near future, he will experience a growth spurt, which should alleviate SOME of the problem. According to the chart, however, he will still be carrying a backpack that is too heavy, even if he meets his projected final weight and height estimate.
she does complain of back pain but had not directly linked it to the back pack
Dr. referred child for an MRI last year due to back pain.
The 11th grader is measured for curvature at her physical every year. It is slightly worse every year. The worst changes occurred at Bumpus where the school was completely unwilling to do a thing about it!
saw dr. because of neck shoulder and low back pain - told not to carry such a heavy backpack - we have one with waist strap but because of weight it doesn't help much
no, but she does have scoliosis so that is another concern. And scoliosis is common in middle school.
we had to visit a chiropractor
We consulted his doctor because of neck and shoulder pain. His backpack was pulling down on his shoulders causing headaches, neck pain and backaches. We have lightened his load ... he is not to carry everything with him to and from school. This has helped somewhat but the backpack are still to heavy.
No It is always knee pain and foot pain so I answer yes to the above.
She has gone to her pediatrician and to a massage therapist due to back strain. The massage therapist was amazed at how tight her muscles are.
Dr. Cocke (chiropractor) for adjustment and deep tissue massage for shoulder upper back pain
she has had back pain since just after start of school. has done stretching and heat and ice. finally saw dr. she is having xrays in 2 days.
I consulted the doctor about scoliosis and the backpack, but he said it was not shown to have a connection

(14) Some schools within Hoover City Schools have classroom and home sets of textbooks, but not all. In addition, some school subjects have electronic textbooks available, but not all. Please indicate with a number (including 0) how many of your child's school subjects have made available: [Number indicates actual respondents, not a percentage]

Two sets of textbooks, one for home and one for the classroom

29	0
10	1
17	2
5	3
4	4

Electronic textbooks

39	0
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15	1
4	2
0	3
1	4

Both

30	0
6	1
2	2
0	More than 2

(15) Any further comments?

I know you know a lot more about these things than I do so I respect your concerns. I was not aware that two sets of text were available. Is there a fee? Also, about the electronic books.
HHS is so big the students do not have time to use their lockers. If they could get to their locker they would not have to carry everything with them all day long.
I have always thought their backpacks were WAY too heavy. My son is constantly being told by his parents to stand up straight. I know it is a direct result of lugging a heavy backpack middle school thru high school.
Excellent topic!
I will help in any way to get either the additional books or electronic textbooks in our schools.
Why are we still sending home antiquated textbooks. Why hasn't Hoover really taken a step forward in meeting technology requirements and have not issued laptops for each student?
In middle school I requested a set of books for home because of the pain my sons were having. It was denied and I purchased a set of books to have at home. One son has chronic back pain and my other son slumps horribly and I feel that it is due to wearing his backpack all day long as his locker is not convenient to any of his classes.
It should be an easy thing for the school, with proper textbook management, to supply every student with a classroom text. If we can afford a field with beautiful artificial turf and many other extras for the athletic department, we could do something about this.
At Bumpus, we were given ISBN numbers of textbooks where a home textbook was not available. However, I found that the numbers we were given were not always for Alabama versions of textbooks, and, if available on-line, the Alabama versions were prohibitively expensive (\$200 or more). The school system should by 2 sets of textbooks (home and classroom) for every class, at every school!
I would gladly pay a reasonable price to have the textbooks on CD, and gladly donate them back to school for next years' students.
FYI It is hard to answer some of the questions accurately - if you have more than one child. This is a survey well worth doing, though!
I know some textbooks are available on cd but don't think this is an ideal way to study. Duplicate text books are fairly expensive.
lockerless schools sound great
I have discussed with administration and Central Office my concern over the safety and health issue of the backpacks. In addition to back problems, there are children that are falling down the stairs because of being thrown off balance by the weight of their backpacks.
It would be wonderful to see this addressed in Hoover. I have contacted administrators several times about this issue and the only response I get is "We're working on it". It is going to take a lawsuit to get it addressed. Unfortunately, someone will need to be hurt and prove that this has affected them, which could have been prevented be being proactive!
Her backpack is much too heavy. She also has a very heavy homework load. I think both issues need to be

addressed.
This has been a problem for years. Parents have complained for years. Schools finally got classroom sets of textbooks 2 years ago. My child is a freshman and they have no classroom copies of books. Why not?
We love having two sets of books!
Our teachers keep the classroom textbooks at school. In K-3 so far, i have NEVER had a text book come home. Only the normal binder (which is the majority of the weight) and library books.
Two sets of books help tremendously -- this was not available until Middle School. Please consider this option for Elementary school as well.
I wish all schools would offer a set of books to leave at home; the electronic version is nice but it can be hard to sit and read at the computer.
In 6th grade at Bumpus we have most heavy textbooks at home for use with homework. My 7th grader only has math. I would love to have other textbooks for the 7th grade too. It makes a big difference with the weight of backpacks.
Last year, my child was provided with a set of textbooks for home and one for the classroom in 4 subjects; this year only one class has provided a text for home. This has greatly increased the load that he carries back and forth each day! There are days that it takes me 2 hands to lift his backpack and now that after school sports have begun, he adds clothes and shoes....
I am not concerned about my son's backpack at this level, but am concerned about middle and high school. I have 2 stepdaughters who came through the Hoover system, and both had issues with carrying too much weight in middle and high school. My oldest would not have survived Hoover High, had she not been a trainer and had a place to keep her books. Her locker was on the other side of the mammoth school from the majority of her classes. She would have had to carry all of her books, all day to make it to class on time.
more time between classes would also do the trick! Why go the expense of duplicate text books. Electronic text books for home use may also help, but won't fix the backpack problem at school.
Classroom texts are wonderful ideas and should be in place for every child. They should be allowed to either have an electronic text or classroom text with the other set kept at home. This eliminates several problems: weight of backpacks, forgotten texts at school, if they have a set at home their are fewer excuses for homework
Availability of and recommendation to use online and/or classroom textbooks has not been made clear to student as an option.
I don't think school officials care how heavy the backpacks of the high school are or if they are detrimental to the health of the student. The locker arrangement and lack of time between classes speaks for itself!
Thanks, this is a serious issue with the consequence of lifelong disabilities
Only one of our children have two sets. That one is in math at Hoover high.
We went to amazon.com and ordered our student a set of books to have at home, also alleviates the problem of saving can't do that subject mom/dad, forgot the book at school
My son is in elementary school and doesn't carry much yet. My daughter is in middle school and has to carry her books anyway since her father and I are divorced. She carries them back and forth on the days she changes visitation. That is one reason her pack is so heavy. The other is the amount of work in each class! She only weighs 90 pounds and this bulky pack is difficult for her.
I would like to see the ban on rolling backpacks removed from our schools. I don't really understand the problem, unless it is a storage issue--but then, aren't we putting building issues ahead of the health of our children?
I know it's expensive, but the school should provide a second set of textbooks for children. My 9th grader weighs 92 pounds, carries a 35 pound backpack, and STILL has to carry extra books!!!! This is ridiculous!!!
Entirely too much weight for a growing child to carry. You are taking on a great liability having the students carry such a load.
I would be very much in favor of either the option of two sets of text books, or electronic versions. Electronic might be less expensive.

it is not healthy for my child to continually carry such a heavy back pack!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

She weighs 62#.