

Dear **BACKPACK Friends and Supporters,**

Happy New Year from **Backpack Full of Cash!**

As 2016 comes to a close and we prepare to ring in a brand new year, we want to wish you a very happy 2017 full of much love, success, and a resolve to uphold and protect our public schools.

As you've likely witnessed since the election, the threats to public education have been growing and have ignited a fierce debate across the country. Remarkably, our new film, Backpack Full of Cash, is coming onto the scene at just the right time. *The film explores the real cost of privatizing public schools, and it can play a key role in the national debate,* informing the public about the vital issues at stake—notably, an equal opportunity to learn for all our children, and a more just, democratic society. We will take the film one big step closer to completion in February 2017—with technical finishing tasks including the film's color correction and sound mix, and purchasing rights to use archival photos, footage, stills, and music – all of which we're able to do because of the generous donations we've received from so many of you.



In 2016, we premiered BACKPACK at the [Philadelphia Film Festival](#), successfully raised over \$30,000 through our [Kickstarter campaign](#), and have begun the important process of spreading the word about what's been going on under the radar—the privatization of public education in the U.S. Every day we're learning more ourselves, developing new relationships, and are continually [growing our presence on social media](#). We have already received many requests for screenings from around the U.S., and other countries as well. We are now seeking funding for the film's distribution phase with the goal of getting BACKPACK out to the broadest possible audience. Please consider an end-of-year contribution. Your pledge is tax-deductible. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about the project, stay in touch, or sign up for a screening.

As you know, **public education is a vital American institution that is worth fighting for.** Please join us in 2017 in getting this urgent message out to the public. Until then, we hope you're ringing in the coming year with your family and friends with love, happiness, and cheer.

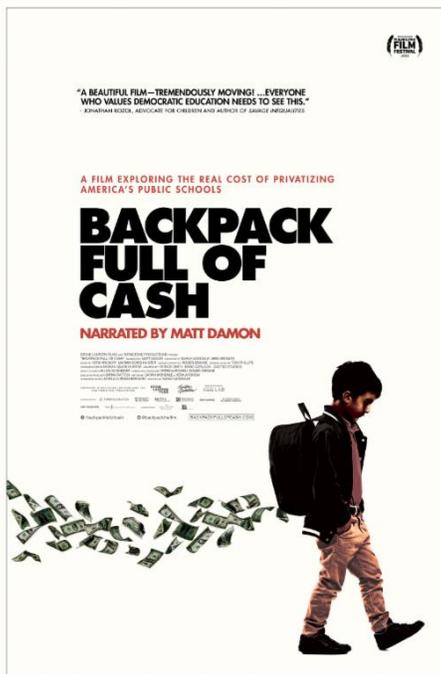
Thank you for all your support and excitement for **Backpack Full of Cash**. We are as thrilled as you are to share this film with the world. See you in 2017!

THE BACKPACK TEAM

FOLLOW US!



If you haven't yet heard of BACKPACK FULL OF CASH, it's a documentary about the real cost of privatizing America's public schools (see [here](#) for more details).



*"One of the ways a society shows its love of children is by the institutions it builds around them."
– Helen Gymb, co-founder of Parents United for Public Education –*