



UNITED WAY
Northeastern
Minnesota

**STEP INTO
SCHOOL**

**2026 PROGRAM
RESULTS**

94



K-12 Students

46



Households

3



Koochiching County
School Districts

20+



Volunteers

STEP INTO SCHOOL unites qualified Koochiching County students and communities for a back-to-school celebration culminating with a shoe shopping outing. The program is operated with the support of Backus Community Center, Ronnings, and International Falls and Koochiching County emergency personnel.



100%

of parents/guardians
in attendance said...

... their child(ren) will
increase physical
activity thanks to
their new
shoes/Step Into
School.



...their child(ren)'s
confidence will
increase from
being a part of
Step Into School.



...Step Into School
helped remove a
financial barrier
for their family.



WHO QUALIFIES?

ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Koochiching County households, with K-12 students, living below the ALICE threshold qualify for this program. The latest report shows that 11% of Koochiching County residents are living in poverty, and another 22% are ALICE.



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UNITED IS THE WAY: United Way of Northeastern Minnesota is proud to collaborate with KOOTASCA Community, coordinating its Learning Tree Distribution with Step Into School. Together, the two programs provide comprehensive back-to-school support to Koochiching County students and their families!



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LEARN MORE:

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