



Fall 2020-2021 Hybrid Schedule

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is planning for three potential types of learning for the 2020-2021 school year: in-person school, distance learning, and a combination of the two (hybrid model). In the event that Minnesota schools are required to implement a hybrid model for all or part of the school year, SPPS will operate on the following schedule:

Hybrid Schedule - K-12 and Full-Day Pre-K*



*Early childhood and half-day Pre-K will follow the same group schedule during their normal class time (a.m. or p.m.)

** Review underway as to whether Wednesday or Friday is the DL day for both groups

With this schedule, all students would be in school two days per week and distance learning the other three days. This schedule has multiple benefits for the social, emotional and physical health of SPPS students and staff, including:

- Smaller class sizes to allow for sufficient social distancing
- Consecutive days in each learning format to allow for more continuity of instruction
- Regular full-day schedule that students, teachers and families are accustomed to
- Ability for students to interact with their peer group and teachers, and engage in authentic, collaborative learning
- Dedicated day for teacher work and student support

Under this model, efforts will be made to place siblings on the same schedule. SPPS will work with community partners to develop student distance learning support options such as an assignment help line.

Per the Minnesota Department of Education guidelines, this model will go into effect if local, regional or statewide COVID-19 metrics worsen OR within individual school(s) if they experience a cluster of cases.

Any of the three learning models (in-person, distance learning or hybrid) could be implemented at any time during the school year based on the public health situation. Students who are medically vulnerable or otherwise unwilling or unable to return to school for in-person or hybrid learning will have a distance learning option.

DECISION BACKGROUND

Several hybrid models were considered before landing on the above schedule, but were ultimately not feasible for SPPS. Having all students in school for five half-days would be too expensive due to transportation costs, and would complicate meal service and teacher work schedules.

Another model placed elementary students in school full-time and older students in full-time distance learning. While this schedule recognized that younger students need more in-person support and would have helped alleviate childcare concerns, it would not have been equitable to older students, and would be logistically challenging to spread students and staff out into other buildings.

We understand that there is not a hybrid model that will work for every family. The model selected best meets the guiding principles that SPPS is using in its fall planning, which are to:

- Focus on the needs of students and families.
- Prioritize community well-being, including the social, emotional and physical health needs of students and staff.
- Champion equity and make sure students maintain progress toward their learning goals.
- Design fiscally responsible and sustainable solutions.