

DRAFT Questions
Revised: August 19, 2020

Note: Answers to the below questions may be changed/adjusted as new guidelines are created by health and education experts.

Q-1: Can we create a safe environment for students and staff so that they can attend school In-Person for the 2020-21 school year?

A: Yes. But, we will all have to make adjustments! With community, parent, student, staff, and School Board support, we believe that we can create a safe environment for students and staff and start school in person for the 2020-21 school year.

Q-2: What are the THREE Learning Models that are being considered for MLPS this year?

A: The Learning Models are:

Model #1: In-Person Learning for all students

Model #2: In-Person Learning for students based on room capacity limits & social distancing (i.e. hybrid, blended, etc.)

Model #3: Distance Learning from home. (includes: Parent-Choice Learning & District Directed Learning)

Q-3: Which Learning Model is MLPS planning to implement?

A: Model #2, **In-Person Learning** (i.e. hybrid, blended, etc.)

Q-4: What is Model #2 (i.e. hybrid, blended, etc.)?

A: For some schools it is: school every other day? For now, MLPS can avoid “every other day” learning. Learning Model #2 (i.e. hybrid, blended, etc.) requires schools to reduce the number of people in **classrooms and buses** to 50%, along with social distancing. To make this happen we are asking TWO questions:

a) How large are our classrooms & buses?

b) How many people can we fit into our rooms & buses?

Example: If a room is 800 sq ft, the capacity is about 40 students. Half of that would be about 20 students.

Q-5: Why is MLPS using Learning Model #2 (i.e. hybrid, blended, etc.) for K-6 when the latest county numbers show that we could use Learning Model #1 (In-Person Model?) for K-6.

A: We will be flexible with this, but implementing Learning Model #2 for K-6 allows us to effectively **transition between the Learning Models.**

Q-6: When is the first & tentative last day of school?

A: On August 17, 2020 the School Board approved the 2020-21 Calendar.

FIRST DAY:	Tuesday, September 15, 2020.
LAST DAY (Tentative):	Thursday, June 10, 2020.

Q-7: Will the MLPS calendar be followed throughout the school year?

A: Yes, the calendar will be followed. But, we will make adjustments as needed.

Q-8: Will the school day hours stay the same?

A: Yes. School hours will stay the same.

- Elementary (K-6) 8:10-3:01
- High School (7-12) 8:10-3:04

Q-9: Will K-6 noon recess be allowed?

A: Unless things change, students in K-6 will have recess everyday. If weather permits it will be outside. If the weather is a problem recess will be inside.

Q-10: Can parents choose Parent-Choice Distance Learning even though the school is allowed to have “in person” learning for all students?

A: Yes. Parents may choose Parent-Choice Distance Learning. They may do so if they are concerned about the safety of their children, or because they do not wish to comply with one, or more of our expectations (i.e. Face covering requirements.) Parents should contact their child’s principal if they wish to register as Parent-Choice Distance Learning.

Q-11: What is the timeline for parents to decide if they would like their child to do Parent-Choice Distance Learning or in-person learning?

A: Parents will have until August 31, 2020, to decide how their child is going to start the school year. If you choose to distance learn, **students will continue this for 9 weeks.** At the end of this time period, students will be

able to change their instructional model to in-person. Parents may choose at any time to transition their child into Parent-Choice Distance Learning, but will not be allowed to transition back to in-person learning until the next nine (9) weeks begins.

Q-12: What are the attendance expectations when the entire School District Implements the Learning Model #3: District-Directed Distance Learning?

A: District-Directed Distance Learning attendance will be taken differently than it was in the Spring of 2020. Students will be required to meet the state mandated hours for the year. Students will have to check in with their teacher(s) during the day to ensure the learning time is met. This is in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Education attendance guidelines.

Q-13: For District-Directed Distance Learning Model #3, do we expect students to stay in front of a screen for the entire day?

A: More information will be presented if/when this Model is adopted. Students will be required to be in attendance during instructional time for each class. The amount of screen time will vary day to day based on the instruction, work time needed, age of students, and other variables.

Q-14: Who will be required to wear a face covering?

A: All staff and students kindergarten and above will be required to wear a face covering, per Governor's Executive Order 20-81.

Q-15: Will students be allowed to bring backpacks to school?

A: Yes. All students will be allowed to bring their own backpacks to school.

High School students will be allowed to bring their backpack to classes and other parts of the building. High school students will have limited opportunities throughout the day to go to the lockers. This practice may change as the situation requires.

Elementary students will be required to keep their backpacks in the student lockers. This practice may change as the situation requires.

Q-16: How will student supplies work? Will each student need to have their own daily supplies?

A: Students will need to **bring their own supplies**, as listed on the school supply list.

Q-17: Will students be allowed to wear their own personal face coverings?

A: Yes, face coverings must adhere to the school dress code and meet the face covering guidelines that cover the nose and mouth of the student. The school will provide each student with one (1) cloth face covering. An additional three (3) disposable face coverings will be kept in the classroom for use as needed.

Q-18: Who will provide accommodations for online special education students?

A: Special education and general education teachers will work together to provide accommodations to students who have an IEP.

Q-19: What if my student becomes sick at school?

A: If your child is sick or presenting symptoms of COVID at school, they will be monitored in a designated COVID area. The nurse will follow protocol and parents will be notified. We will follow the recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Click here for more information: [Decision Tree for COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Q-20: What if my student tests positive for COVID?

A: Immediately notify Lana Sander, our School Nurse. Those who test positive should follow the recommendations from your physician and Minnesota Department of Health. If you are Distance Learning, this will continue as your child's health allows. If you were in-person, your child will immediately switch to Distance Learning as their health allows. Your teacher(s) will be in contact with your child.

Click here for more information: [Decision Tree for COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Q-21: What if my student was exposed to COVID?

A: Immediately notify Lana Sander our School Nurse. We will reference the Minnesota Department of Health decision tree to determine what the next steps will be for your child.

Click here for more information: [Decision Tree for COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Q-22: What if someone in my home has tested positive to COVID?

A: Immediately notify Lana Sander our School Nurse. We will reference the Minnesota Department of Health decision tree to determine what the next steps will be for your child.

Click here for more information: [Decision Tree for COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Q-23: Who will be allowed in the school?

A: We will only allow students and staff in the buildings. Visitors will only be allowed to if there is an emergency.

Q-24: How often will the building and rooms be cleaned?

A: Staff will be frequently cleaning surfaces and materials between classes, groups of students, and frequently used materials after each use. Custodians will be doing a nightly cleaning. Additional cleaning will be done in areas as needed. School cleaning expectations will be further detailed in the MLPS District Blueprint plan.

Q-25: If my child is participating in Parent-Choice Distance Learning, will they still get breakfast and lunch from the school?

A: Yes. We want to make sure that students receive the nutrition they need.

- Meals will be available to students for days they are not participating in the In Person Learning Model.
- Meals will be available for pickup at a time TBA, in front of the Elementary School.
- Parents/Guardians must call and reserve a meal. Meals will be charged to the students meal account. We strongly encourage families to submit the Application for Educational Benefits.
- Questions can be directed to Tammy Wolle, Food Service Director, at 507-427-2325 at twolle@mountainlake.k12.mn.us

Q-26: Will my child be daily monitored for COVID symptoms?

A: Yes, parents should be taking their child's temperature prior to sending their child to school to determine if the child has no new onset or worsening COVID signs or symptoms.

Facial covering Questions can be answered at: [FAQ about facial covering wearing - MDH website](#)

Q-27: Will parents be required to sign a handbook, or a list of expectations, before the students are allowed in the building?

A: Everyone will be expected to follow our district policies, guidelines, and expectations. Parents and students have, and will be given a variety of documents to help them know what the district expects during these times:

- Handbooks
- Restart Blueprints
- Return to School Plans
- Best practice posters.
- Guidance from MDH & MDE
- Others as needed