

FARIBAULT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Flexible Learning Model for the 2020-21 School Year



Dear Faribault Public Schools Families,

I want to start by thanking you for your patience and understanding as we've worked to create a back-to-school plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our students and staff and allows us to adapt to constantly changing information.

Our district has outlined plans for three potential scenarios; Full in-person learning for all students, a hybrid of in-person learning and distance learning, and distance learning for all students. A framework for all three models can be found in this document. More details will be released soon in our district Preparedness Plan.

If the school year started today, we would begin in a hybrid model for all students. Our district's hybrid model would bring all students in Pre-K through Grade 6 back to school every day with strict safety measures and protocols in place. Our students in Grades 7 through 12 would return to school two days per week and engage in distance learning three days per week.

On Monday, Aug. 17 we will join other area schools in officially announcing our learning model for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

I believe the hybrid model option provides safety as well as stability for our staff, students and families as we continue to monitor the case data. It also gives our students and staff the chance to begin building meaningful relationships in-person at the start of the school year.

Starting in the hybrid model would also provide us with the flexibility to loosen restrictions or move to distance learning as we respond to local public health information and county case data.

As we move forward, we will continue to rely on local public health data and guidance from the state to provide the safest learning environment possible for all students, staff and families.

We will provide timely communication to staff and families when a classroom, school or district-wide shift between learning models needs to be made.

Parents who do not want their child(ren) to participate in in-person learning can choose to enroll them in full-time distance learning.

We ask that you log in to Campus Parent Portal by Saturday, Aug. 15 and let us know if you plan to opt in to distance learning.

There are still many questions to be answered. Additional details regarding student transportation, class assignments, child care, meals and more will be released as they become available.

Once again, thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. Our school district is dedicated to overcoming the obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing to nurture, inspire, challenge and empower the learners in our community.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Todd Sesker



Let us know your plans

Please connect with us through your Campus Parent Portal between now and Saturday, Aug. 15. Your updated educational choices will help us finalize our staffing plans and building configurations for this fall.

Once you're logged in to Campus Parent Portal, click on the More link, then on Online Registration, and Existing Student to get started.

We ask that you commit to your chosen learning model for the first semester.

If we do not hear from you, a representative from your child's school will contact you via phone.

If you do not have a portal account, email portalhelp@faribault.12.mn.us or contact your school office to sign up.

A decision based on health data

On July 30, Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Education announced a Safe Learning Plan that authorized school districts to use a localized, data-driven approach to resuming school this fall. Within the plan, the MDE outlines the steps each district should take to determine its learning model, starting with the tracking of county COVID-19 case rates per 10,000 residents.

Rice County had a rolling 14-day average of 10.19 cases per 10,000 residents as of the publication of the MDE data (below) on July 30. The average has remained under 20 since June 14. For counties between 10-19 cases per 10,000 residents, the MDE indicated the following learning models: in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students.

As we move forward, Our Regional Support Team, made up of Rice County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health, will inform our decisions by providing us with the most recent case data and consulting with us regarding implementation and evaluations of our safety practices and learning model. Our district, led by health and safety manager Haley Storms, will collaborate with the Regional Support Team to ensure we're taking every step possible to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff. The MDH will lead our response to any positive cases in our school buildings.



Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

For the latest updates: faribault.k12.mn.us



FARIBAULT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Flexible Learning Model for the 2020-21 School Year



We're Committed to Health and Safety

To start the school year, each building will be equipped with:

- Plexiglass sheets for the reception areas.
- Health screening stations at designated building entrances that will include recommended screening tools per the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. For example: thermometers, hand sanitizer, disposable masks for visitors, and posters with health screening questions.
- Social distancing rules that will be identified in public spaces.
- Posters promoting health and safety practices.
- Cleaning materials for each classroom. For example, microfiber towels with disinfectant.
- Masks that will be distributed to all staff and students
- Protocols in place for isolating and removing those with COVID-19 symptoms

Three Learning Models at a Glance

Full-time in-person Learning



Hybrid Learning



(Grades 7-12)

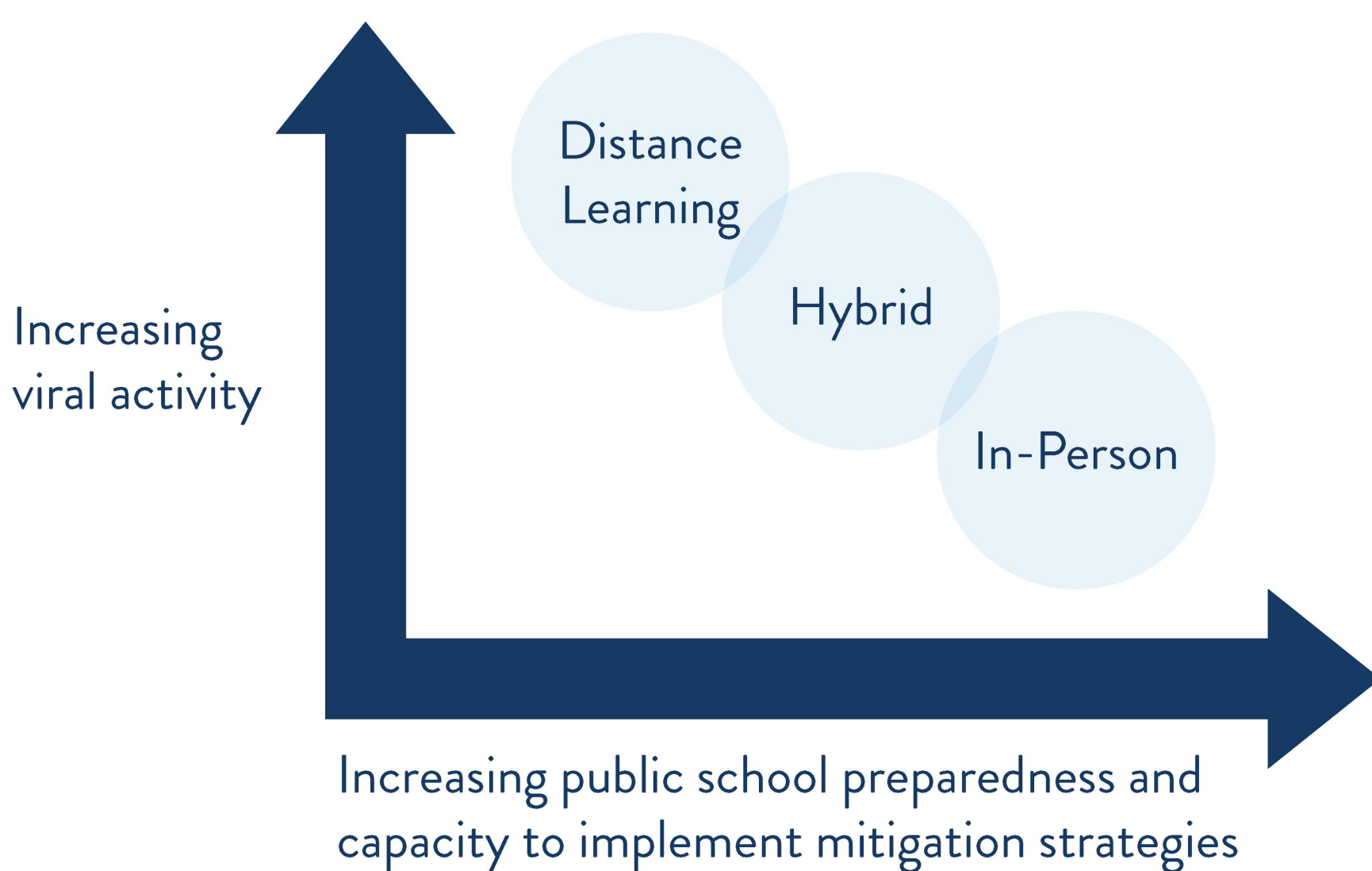
Distance Learning



If we start the year in the hybrid model, students in Pre-K through Grade 6 would attend school daily with strict health and safety protocols in place. Students in Grades 7 through 12 would attend school two days per week and engage in distance learning three days per week.

All students have the option to participate exclusively in distance learning. We ask that families commit to their chosen learning model for one semester.

Our learning model is designed to be flexible. We are prepared to pivot between models as based on Rice County casa data and other local health factors.



FARIBAULT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Flexible Learning Model for the 2020-21 School Year

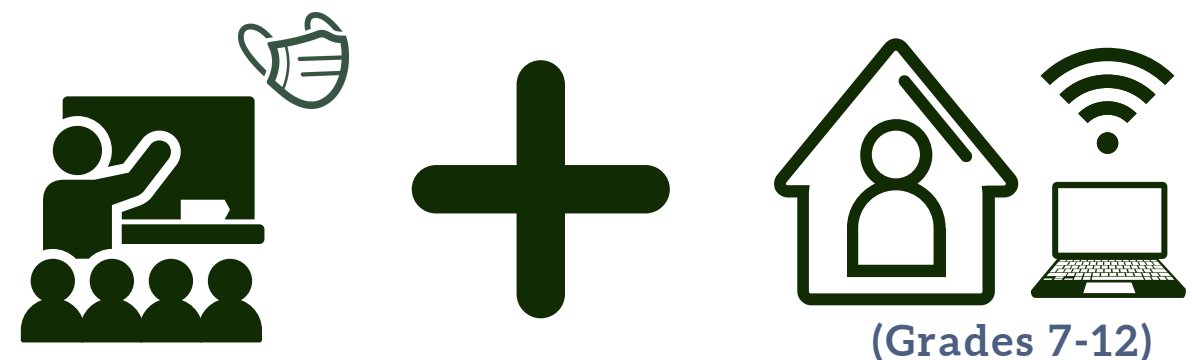


Scenario 1: In-Person Model (All Students)



We hope to bring all our students back into their classrooms full-time by the end of this school year. There are many factors that will contribute to that decision. If we do return to full in-person learning, our measures to ensure health and safety will be based on county data and guidance from the MDH and MDE.

Scenario 2: Hybrid Model



In our hybrid model, elementary and secondary students would operate on different schedules to best meet their learning needs. The following health and safety measures would be implemented at all buildings:

- Stagger arrival/dismissal, class and lunch times to minimize congestion
- Social distancing to the fullest extent possible
- Avoid large gatherings or congregating before or after school
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily or more often depending on use
- Students, staff and visitors would be required to wear face coverings in district buildings and buses
- Stress frequent hand-washing and good hygiene habits
- Meals delivered to the classroom
- Provide hand sanitizer at entrances, cafeterias and other areas throughout all buildings
- Limit capacity in buildings and buses to no more than 50 percent
- Modified school-day schedule to decrease high-volume student transitions between classes, during lunch and before and after school

Pre-K and Elementary Hybrid - All students in school every school day

Most classes would consist of between 12-15 students. Each class would be taught by licensed staff and classrooms would be set up to allow for social distancing.

- **PreK-grade 5 students** would attend McKinley or their elementary school. Large common areas like media centers and gymnasiums may be converted to classroom spaces if needed
- **Grade 6 students** would attend Faribault Middle School. Large common areas like media centers and gymnasiums may be converted to classroom spaces if needed.
- Devices would be used daily to support learning at home and to prepare for full-time distance learning, if necessary.
- An iPad will be provided to each kindergarten-Grade 6 student, regardless of which scenario is selected, so all students will have a device with access to the internet (district hotspots provided, if needed).

FARIBAULT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Flexible Learning Model for the 2020-21 School Year



Scenario 2: Hybrid Model (Continued)

Secondary Hybrid - All students in school two days per week

Middle school (Grades 7-8), high school and ALC students would be split into two groups:

- FMS and FHS Group A: Attend in-person Monday and Tuesday, distance learning at home the other days
- FMS and FHS Group B: Attend in-person Thursday and Friday, distance learning at home the other days
- ALC Group A: Attend in-person Monday and Tuesday, distance learning at home the other days
- ALC Group B: Attend in-person Wednesday and Thursday, distance learning at home the other days
- Wednesdays would be distance learning days for all FMS (7-8) and FHS students (except center-based), with time for individual student interventions, enrichment, planning for instruction and deep cleaning the building, in addition to daily cleaning
- Classrooms would be set up to provide social distancing and reduced to approximately 12-18 students at the middle school, 15-21 students at the high school depending on the size of the class and space available
- Learning in school would utilize best practices for teaching and learning while following health and safety requirements
- Learning at home would utilize best practices for teaching and learning in a virtual environment to support and enhance learning for students
- Students will switch to distance learning if they have an extended illness or if quarantine is necessary

Scenario 3: Distance Learning Model (All Students)

If the number of cases in Rice County rises to a rate of more than 50 per 10,000 people, or if other local health factors warrant, Faribault Public Schools will move into a full-time distance learning model for all students in accordance with the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan. The distance learning provided at the end of last school year was implemented under emergency circumstances in just a few days. This summer, teams of administrators and teachers have been working to improve distance learning by:

- Coordinating consistency for use of the Seesaw and Schoology learning management systems
- Sharing distance learning best practices and identifying “must do/may do” activities
- Providing a better mix of synchronous (same time) and asynchronous (independent application of learning) learning opportunities
- Increasing student capacity for managed independent learning
- Narrowing the curriculum and continuously monitoring scope and sequence across grade levels
- Establishing similar classroom practices for students to follow, whether in school or at home
- Providing additional resources to help parents and guardians support their children in distance learning



Meals and Child Care

Regardless of the learning model you choose, we will continue to provide daily meals to all students and child care for children of Tier 1 essential workers. Tier 1 workers include employees from these fields:

Healthcare and public health, Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, Food and agriculture, Judicial branch, National Guard, Educators and school staff providing in-person instruction or caring for children of critical workers, Child care and school-age child care providers.