



# COVID-19 and the 2020-21 School Year

## Minnesota's three learning environment scenarios

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) announced that three learning environment scenarios will be prepared for the 2020-21 school year. The MDE [2020 Planning Guidance](#) for Minnesota Public Schools (*MDE 2020 Planning Guidance*) describes the three scenarios in depth.

Scenario 1: In-person learning for all students	Scenario 2: Hybrid learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits	Scenario 3: Distance learning for all students
<p>This scenario will be implemented if public health data indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has sufficiently stabilized and/or improved to permit a reopening of schools. As students return to school, the school district should maximize the space between students and others, though it may not be feasible to enforce 6 feet of social distancing during classroom instructional time. Activities and extracurricular programming should continue to follow the <a href="#">COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults</a>.</p>	<p>This scenario will be implemented when state officials determine that COVID-19 metrics have worsened at a local, regional, or statewide level or if a cluster of COVID-19 infections occur in a classroom or school. Under Scenario 2, schools <b>must</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Limit the overall number of people in school facilities and on transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy</li> <li>✓ Ensure a minimum of 6 feet social distancing at all times. If this distancing cannot be achieved, the number of occupants must be reduced</li> <li>✓ Plan for contactless pick-up and/or delivery of meals and school materials for days that students and staff are not in the building</li> <li>✓ Implement a school-age care program for critical workers</li> </ul>	<p>This scenario will be implemented when state officials determine that COVID-19 metrics have worsened significantly enough at a local, regional, or statewide level to require suspension of in-person learning. Under Scenario 3, schools <b>must</b> follow federal and state requirements, ensure that students be able to participate equitably in their learning, and provide access for students to all relevant services and supports</p>