

MPS 2020-21 Student Teaching FAQ

Overview

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MPS is making modifications to its student teacher program during SY 20-21 in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of students, Cooperating Teachers, student teachers and any other adults in MPS buildings. For the purposes of this FAQ, the term “student teachers” encompasses student teachers, practicum students, and related service interns. This document contains answers to frequently asked questions about what is changing and what is remaining the same this year.

1) Is MPS hosting student teachers this year?

Yes. Student teaching is a critical component in the development of new teachers, many of whom end up working in Minneapolis classrooms after graduating. MPS is committed to the partnerships with our many teacher preparation programs, and to providing in-depth and high-quality clinical experiences for student teachers.

2) Will student teachers work in person in MPS schools during [phase 2 of the reopening plan](#)? What if my Cooperating Teacher is working from their classroom?

No. The MPS [Safe Learning Plan](#) supports distance learning for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. In an effort to limit the number of adults that enter school buildings and consequently limit any potential COVID-19 exposure to staff or student teachers, all student teaching will be done remotely during the 2020-21 school year. Even if a Cooperating Teacher returns to their school building or classroom, student teachers cannot enter MPS buildings and will collaborate with Cooperating Teachers remotely.

3) What does student teaching look like during distance learning?

While teaching during distance learning will look different for everyone, student teachers will engage in the same online planning and instructional practices as their Cooperating Teachers, which ensures their clinical experience will be relevant and aligned with teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. Student teachers will have access to MPS online systems in order to collaborate regularly online with their Cooperating Teachers, plan lessons, and engage with students remotely (see #6 below for instructions on how to gain online access.) The MPS video conferencing platforms are [Microsoft Teams](#) and [Google Meet](#).

4) Do student teachers still need a background check during distance student teaching?

Yes. The registration and background check process remains unchanged, and is also a critical step in ensuring that student teachers gain access to MPS online systems and that Cooperating Teachers receive leadership compensation for their work with student teachers. As in previous years, student teachers must create an account and university placement coordinators must

register each placement in the [MPS Placement Registration System](https://insights.mpls.k12.mn.us/HumanCapital/Public/Placement/) (<https://insights.mpls.k12.mn.us/HumanCapital/Public/Placement/>). The system allows MPS to 1) conduct background checks, 2) give credit to cooperating teachers and 3) recruit student teachers for open positions. It is also required for student teachers to gain access to MPS online systems (see #6 below). More information on registration [can be found here](#).

5) How do student teachers pay for their background check?

Student teachers will be billed for \$7, which is the fee to cover the cost of your background check.

6) Will student teachers have access to MPS online systems and get an MPS email address during student teaching?

- Student teachers should request [Non-MPS Network Access](#) to distance learning technology, listing the principal or assistant principal's email address or Christopher.Moore@mpls.k12.mn.us in the "Supervisor's Email Address" field. (Cooperating teachers are not able to approve access as a supervisor.) Then the student teacher should work with their Cooperating Teacher and the IT department to gain access to necessary platforms (e.g., Google Classroom).
- Student teachers **will not receive an MPS email account** because they are not employees of the district.

7) What training is required for student teachers in 2020-21?

In order to best support student teachers' success at MPS during distance learning, student teachers are required to engage in the following online training (NOTE: access to MPS online systems is required to complete online training; please see #6 above):

1. Familiarize yourself with how to search MPS policies on the [MPS Policy Website](#)
2. Review the resources available on the [MPS Distance Learning Resources website](#)
3. Complete at least one online tutorial or previously-recorded session to support the classroom learning management system most relevant to your student teaching placement: [Google Classroom](#) or [Seesaw](#)
4. Complete at least one additional online tutorial or previously-recorded session of your choice from the [MPS Distance Learning Resources website](#)

8) Who can I talk to for additional information on student teaching this year?

For questions not answered in this FAQ, please contact StudentTeaching@mpls.k12.mn.us.