



Back²School

First Day of School:
August 23, 2021
Saint Louis Public
Schools

What Parents
Need to
Know About
Back2School



Some Facts About Saint Louis Public Schools:

- The Saint Louis Public School (SLPS) District serves approximately 20,000 students. (Count will be updated Sept 2021.) Of that number, 79% are African American, 13% White, 5% Hispanic, and 3% Asian.
- Before the pandemic, SLPS served 2100 preschool students. We estimate that the number has dropped to around 1500.
- There are 50 languages spoken in the District.
- The District is fully accredited since 2017.
- The four-year graduation rate is 78.2%. (Up from 70.9% in 2017).
- The District has more than doubled its volunteer count since 2008 with 3300 volunteers.
- More than 398 partners serve the District at this time.
- The District carries a healthy fund balance.
- The SLPS Foundation has four emphases and early childhood education is one of them. Their efforts have helped to increase the number of students designated as “kindergarten ready”. The Foundation also raises funds to support health and wellness initiatives, college and career readiness, and, leadership development.

Back2School FAQ:

Here are answers to other frequently asked questions about school year 2021-2022.

When is the first day of school at Saint Louis Public Schools?

School starts on **Monday, August 23**, for students' pre-K – 12th grades at Saint Louis Public Schools. ALL students will be attending in person. There is no virtual option this year, however, Edmentum online is still available.

What is Edmentum?

Edmentum is an online-guided learning program. For more information on Edmentum and other programs made possible through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP), please visit our website at www.slps.org/Edmentum. Applications are required and parents can find the form on the URL above.

Please call Wanda Garner at 314-345-4470 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday for further information.

Does the District have a plan for starting school in a pandemic?

Absolutely. Safety is a top priority at Saint Louis Public Schools and the key is planning. You will find our complete Restart Plan online at www.slps.org/restart.

The District follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and St. Louis City Department of Health guidelines since schools first closed in March 2020.

We are proud of our entire staff and commend them on their response to the pandemic and the extensive protocol they put in place to ensure healthy work and school environments.

Our elementary and middle school students began returning to school last October, followed by high school students in January. The District's summer school program included 4200 students. We have demonstrated our ability to hold school safely. The St. Louis City DOH recognized SLPS for exemplary measures in mitigating concerns. Even so, we will remain vigilant and flexible as we move forward with our plans.

Approximately 80 percent of our staff is vaccinated. The District will continue to provide vaccination opportunities for adults and students ages 12 and up.

When school starts, students at all grade levels will wear masks until we advise differently. We will adhere to social distancing in schools and on buses. We will continue to limit guests to only essential visitors. Parents are to make appointments in advance. Early on, we adopted frequent and visible cleaning/sanitizing schedules and this "Confidence Cleaning" will continue.





How do I enroll my student in school at SLPS?

There are three ways to register your child for school. You may register online, at your home school, or with our Recruitment and Placement Office at 801 N. 11th Street. To confirm your home school, call the Recruitment and Placement Office at 314-633-5200 or visit www.slps.org/enroll.

Here's what you will need to present:

1. Birth certificate
2. Current immunization record
3. Current physical exam
4. Current dental exam
5. If your child has health coverage please provide proof of coverage

Parent/guardians must also provide:

1. Identification
2. Proof of residency
3. Proof of annual income

Please remember to provide your school with your child's proof of immunization. It is a state law that students be current on immunizations or that they are in the process of getting them before reporting to school. This is especially important as we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

My student's school closed and they have been assigned another school. How can I verify their new home school?

You can verify the school assignment by calling Recruitment and Placement at 314-633-5200. If you made your selection earlier, we will have communicated that to the home school.

If you are unsure of your assigned school or need to select a school, a personal recruiter is standing by for your call. We intend to make your transition as smooth as possible.

My student does not have a iPad or laptop. How can we get one?

Distribution will occur at your student's home school during the first week of school. Presently, the SLPS technology team is working on retrieving iPads and laptops issued during the 2020-2021 school year to complete restoration work. This includes wiping all data from the device, refreshing all Apps, replacing the old cases with new ones, and creating an inventory for each school.

Your student's new device will be ready and waiting for their return to class. Contact your home school with any questions.

Are there back-to-school events planned?

You bet. We are excited to announce that on Saturday, August 7, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Union Local 420 and SLPS have collaborated to offer the **Safe School Start Celebration**. SLPS Nurse Shanetta Harrington and her team will provide vaccination and healthcare information. You can also look forward to free food, entertainment, and prizes.

Two weeks later on Saturday, August 21, come out and collect supplies and other goodies at the **Urban League/SLPS Back-2-School drive-thru event** at the UL headquarters located at 1408 N. Kingshighway.

For supply lists posted by grade, visit www.slps.org/schoolsupplies. If you need information on how to get school supplies, please call the Office of Recruitment and Placement at 314-633-5200.

Under the direction of Union Local 420, SLPS teachers are going to be operating a phone bank. Starting July 15, they will be calling families to welcome students to the new school year and to answer questions.

My child is attending a new school because theirs closed last school year. I have some questions as we prepare to transition. What do I need to do?

If you have not selected a home school, please call the Office of Recruitment and Placement at 314-633-5200. If you have selected a school, you may call that school directly (consult www.slps.org for school information). You can expect someone from that school to reach out to you as well. We aim to ensure a smooth transition.

We recently moved. How can I update my contact information?

Glad you asked. Your school team must have your most current information. We will safeguard your data and only use it to communicate important information about your child or the school.





More Ways to Connect Than Ever Before.

Are you interested in a quick and easy way to check what's happening in the District? Well, there's an app for that.

Saint Louis Public School's app: You may download the District's app from the App Store or Google Play by typing in Saint Louis Public Schools. The blue and white app will come up and it's free to download.

FirstView: Is your child a bus rider? We use a transportation app called FirstView. It allows you to see, at a glance, where your student is along the bus route.

SMS: You may now OPT-IN for SMS text messaging. Text "YES" to 67587.

The District Digest: Sign up to receive our parent newsletter, The District Digest, at www.slps.org/districtdigest.

Let's Talk: Our Let's Talk app on the website will be updated soon and more information will be provided on how to provide feedback to the District or to your school.

Are sports back on schedule? Are athletes required to test for Covid-19?

YES and YES. GO SLPS. Practice for high school fall sports starts on August 9. You must be current on immunizations and have had a physical in the past two years to participate. Please make sure your school nurse has received your physical.

Bi-weekly Covid-19 tests are required for all NON-VACCINATED students. Remember you have the opportunity for traditional immunizations, vaccinations, and physicals at the **Safe Start Celebration** on August 7 at the Gateway Complex.

Athletics are also back for students in 3rd – 12th grade and practice starts in September.

What's new in athletics?

Brand new this spring, we are offering Boy's Volleyball at select high school locations. Check with your school's athletic director to sign up.

Is your student interested in Esports?

We are. We're working on setting up a brand new course offering for 2021-2022.

What's new in the District?

Many things, including more nurses, counselors and social workers, more wraparound services, and more advanced placement courses, among others.

My student fell behind last year and their grades slipped. Where can we get extra help?

The Curriculum and Instruction Team has updated our Standard-Based Curriculum Plans, which directly align to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) recommendations for Learning Acceleration, a researched-based approach identified by DESE as a best -practice for supporting students in their recovery of learning loss. Many of these practices were in place during our recent summer learning program and proved successful in boosting student reading scores, supporting unprecedented outcomes for credit recovery and support for social and emotional learning.

Please let your teacher or principal know if your student needs help and they will collaborate with you in discovering the right supports for your scholar.

SLPS transportation's FirstView app makes tracking your child's location easy.

Saint Louis Public Schools uses the **FirstView** app, a school bus tracking system that will allow you to monitor the location of your child's bus to and from school and set up distance or time zone to your child's stop.

The FirstView app is available for download on either the Google Play Store or Apple Store.

1. Set up an account on the FirstView Parent app. You do not need to do anything if you are already a subscriber. **The app will update your student's profile automatically.**

2. After setting up a username (preferably your email address) and password for yourself and entering your contact information, you will receive a confirmation email.

3. Please follow the directions to "add a student." You must select your state and school district to add the student to your profile.

Please show your student ID number with the 0's removed to add the student to your profile (i.e. Student ID 00011111 should be entered as 11111.)

CHILD'S FIRST NAME: «Firstname_»

STUDENT ID: «studentID»

SCHOOL NAME: «site»

GRADE: «grade»

FirstView pulls student address information from the Student Information System (SIS). If you move or change your phone number, please follow the normal protocol and update it with your school secretary. Having the right contact information is key to keeping you updated on all new information.

Adjusting your contact information in FirstView will not alter your child's bus route or update your information with the District. FirstView is an important safety feature for our bus riding families so please take a moment to sign up.

Please contact the SLPS Transportation Department with any questions or comments at slpstrans@slps.org or 314-633-5107.



Phone Contacts:

Edmentum Online: Wanda Garner at 314-345-4470
between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Gifted Testing: Shelice Hardin at 314-345-4548
between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Recruitment and Placement: Stephen Anderson at 314-633-5200
between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Transportation: slpstrans@slps.org or 314-633-5107.

Remember, your Home School is always a great source of information.

For more info, please visit
www.slps.org

