



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

RPS Secondary Hybrid Schedule - FAQ

Q: What is a hybrid schedule?

A: A hybrid schedule is a mitigation strategy that reduces student density in the school building by arranging half of the student population to attend in person and the other half to participate remotely depending on the day of the week.

Click [here](#) for details of the RPS Secondary Hybrid Schedule.

Q: Why is the district considering the use of a hybrid schedule for secondary students?

A: Given that secondary students travel from class to class, they are in contact with many of their peers. Hybrid scheduling can be used as a middle ground between remote and full face-to-face learning. Fewer students physically in the school and classrooms can increase social distancing and decrease the possibility of being a close contact resulting in being quarantined. When compared to remote learning, the hybrid schedule would maintain five days of instruction while allowing students to attend school for two days per week, gaining some of the additional benefits of attending in person.

Q: How will students be scheduled to participate?

A: Students are divided into two cohort groups (Black and Orange). Cohort Black will be composed of students with last names beginning with **A-L**. Cohort Orange will be composed of students with last names beginning with **M-Z**.

- **Cohort Black** - Monday and Thursday in person: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday remote.
- **Cohort Orange** - Tuesday and Friday in person: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday remote.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will use the standard school day clock hour schedule for all students. Wednesday will be a remote learning day for all students and a remote learning schedule will be used. Additional details about schedules can be found at the link above.

Q: Is my child allowed to attend a day that does not align with his or her last name?

A: No - In order to maintain balanced class sizes, student requests for placement on a day that does not align with a last name will not be granted. Exceptions will only be reserved for unique situations and academic needs as directed by the school personnel.

Students that live in the same household and have different last names will be given the opportunity to attend on the same day.

Q: Is there opportunity for any students to attend each of the four in-person days of the week.

A: Students that qualify for special services will be scheduled for in-person learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. If there are additional considerations for groups or individual students, decision making and communication will occur at the building level.

Q: Are all safety protocols still in place during the hybrid schedule?

A: Yes. The district will continue to provide the safest environment possible for students and staff by using the same safety procedures and protocols that have been used since the beginning of the year.

Q: What are the benefits of the hybrid when compared to remote learning?

A: Students can benefit from the following:

- Increased in-person socialization and interaction with peers and teachers
- Increased opportunity for academic and social/emotional assistance
- Predictability for normal school schedules/routines
- Student sense of belonging to the school community

Q: Will my child still be able to ride the bus to school?

A: Yes. District transportation will continue to run as normally scheduled. Students will ride on the days they are scheduled to attend in-person instruction.

Q: Will lunches be served on days that students are scheduled to be in-person.

A: Yes. The lunches will be served as they normally would on a face-to-face day. Students will eat in the classrooms.

Q: How do students participate on days they are not scheduled to be at school?

A: Students will participate the same way they do during remote learning. This means they login at the beginning of each class via Google Meet and access learning materials in Schoology as directed by their teacher.

Q: What are the attendance procedures?

A: Teachers will be taking hourly attendance as they would during full face-to-face instruction. Students are required to attend on the days they are scheduled in-person as well as during each class remotely. When a student is required to be absent or not able to attend remotely, a parent/guardian must call in the absence to the building attendance office just as one normally would during full face-to-face instruction.

Q: How long would the hybrid schedule be used?

A: There is no defined time for using the hybrid schedule. Like any arrangement, the district would continue to monitor COVID data and state requirements when determining educational placements.