



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-27

School Readiness Report

Board of Education Meeting
August 18, 2026

Purpose

Provide an overview for the Board of Education on the state of readiness for the **first day of school: Tuesday, September 8, 2026**

- Schools & Academics
- Human Resources
- Operations: Security and Emergency Management, Technology Services, Facilities, Nutrition Services, Family Engagement & Community Education, Transportation

Schools/Academics

Back to School: Professional Learning

Administrators Summer Professional Learning

- Leadership Advance hosted by Dr. Stanley
- Leadership Academy for all principals/assistant principals
- Virtual professional development: EEO, Health and Wellness, Special Education, Human Resources, Technology, and Teaching and Learning
- School Continuous Improvement Planning
 - Goals refined and aligned with B.I.G.G.
 - Schools develop individual reading, math, and school climate goals



Opening Week (Licensed Staff)

- School and district-level professional development and self directed time for teachers
 - 71 opportunities for teachers and staff; in-person and virtual opportunities

New & Expanded Programming

- **Benjamin E. Mays Afrocentric Magnet:**
New PreK-5 program launch
- **Wellstone Elementary:** [Karen Culture and Language Program](#) adding grade 2
- **East African Magnet:** Expanding to grade 8
- **Obama Middle School:** Adding grade 7
- **Bruce Vento Elementary:** New playground!
- **3DE** continuing to expanding to tenth grade at Harding, and eleventh grade at Como and Washington



Classroom Technology Updates

SPPS is responding to family and staff feedback about screen time, social-emotional effects of technology, and the continued need for hands-on learning. Updated family support information is available at spps.org/digital-support and spps.org/families.

YouTube/Apps

- Blocked on all elementary iPads at school
- Reviewing access for secondary
- Teachers can still show/ share approved videos
- All apps in Self Service reviewed for alignment to curriculum (spps.org/apps)

AI/Google

- AI/Gemini blocked for PreK-8 students
- Google search AI results in progress of being blocked
- Popular AI websites have been blocked since SY25-26
- Email disabled for grades PreK-3; limited to 35 recipients in grades 4-12

Cybersecurity

- Additional iPad security and restrictions enabled
- Digital citizenship and cybersecurity mini-lessons for all grades
- Securly app for managing student iPads at home

Human Resources

Talent Acquisition

Bargaining Unit	Total Vacancies Identified for 2026-27	Positions Filled to Date	Remaining Vacancies	Last Year at This Time
Licensed Educator	111	83	28	81
EAs	39	23	16	24
TAs	126	92	34	118
AFSCME (at schools)	11	6	5	10

**4 open Special Education Teacher positions remaining*

***Includes open related services positions i.e. Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, etc.*

****These numbers are as of August 11, 2026*

Educator Development

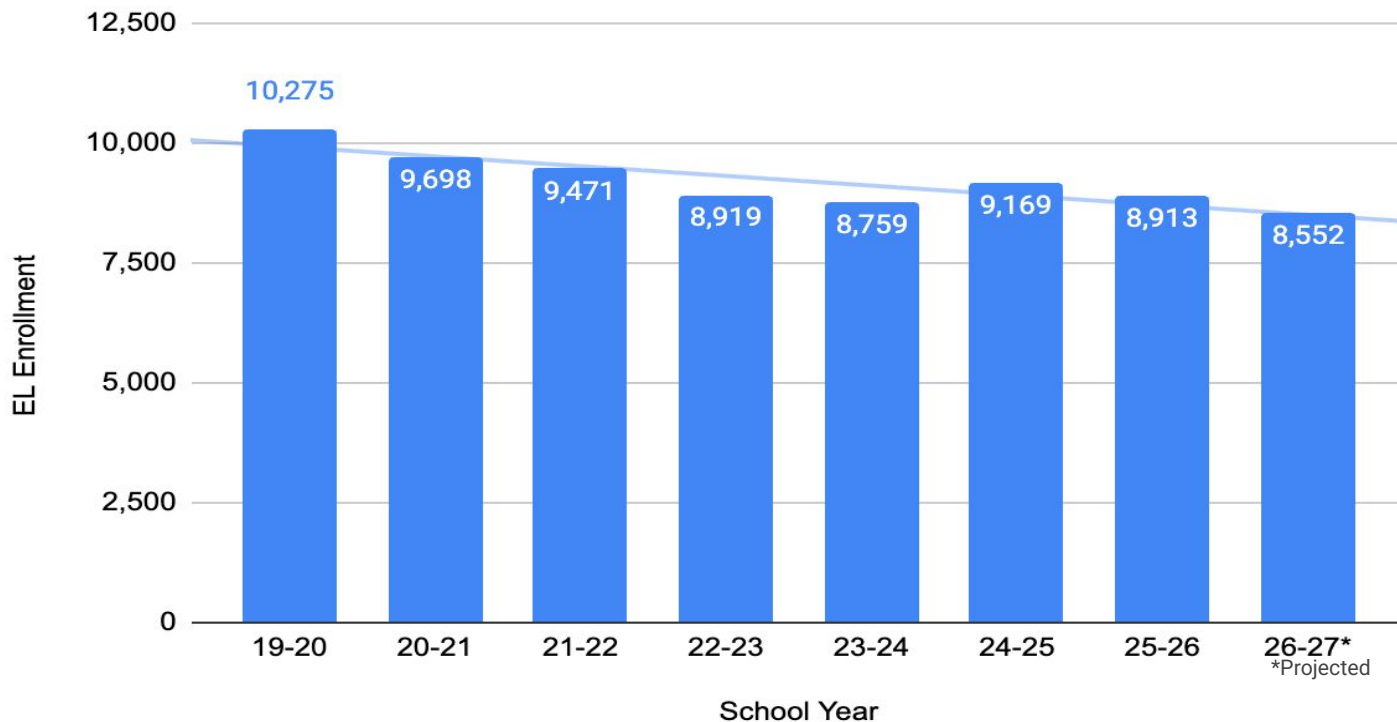
- **New Educator Week – August 24-27, 2026**
 - Welcome approx. 150 new educators to create a sense of belonging and provide foundational professional development to support and navigate SPPS systems and culture, grounded in equity and culturally responsive instruction toward student achievement
- **Opening Week Professional Development for EAs - September 1, 2026**
 - Partnering with SPFE to welcome EAs for differentiated PD
- **Professional Development for TAs - August 31, & September 1 - 3, 2026**
- **SPPS Urban Teacher Residency (SUTR)**
 - Undergraduate program: 8 residents will continue working as EAs/TAs while taking coursework toward their undergraduate degree and teaching license
 - Graduate program: 15 residents set to begin their yearlong residency w/mentor teachers during Opening Week; they'll also continue coursework toward their graduate degree and teaching license
- **Mentor Mentee Program:** currently matching all first-year educators w/mentors

EL Staffing

What is the difference between Enrollment and Average Daily Membership (ADM)?

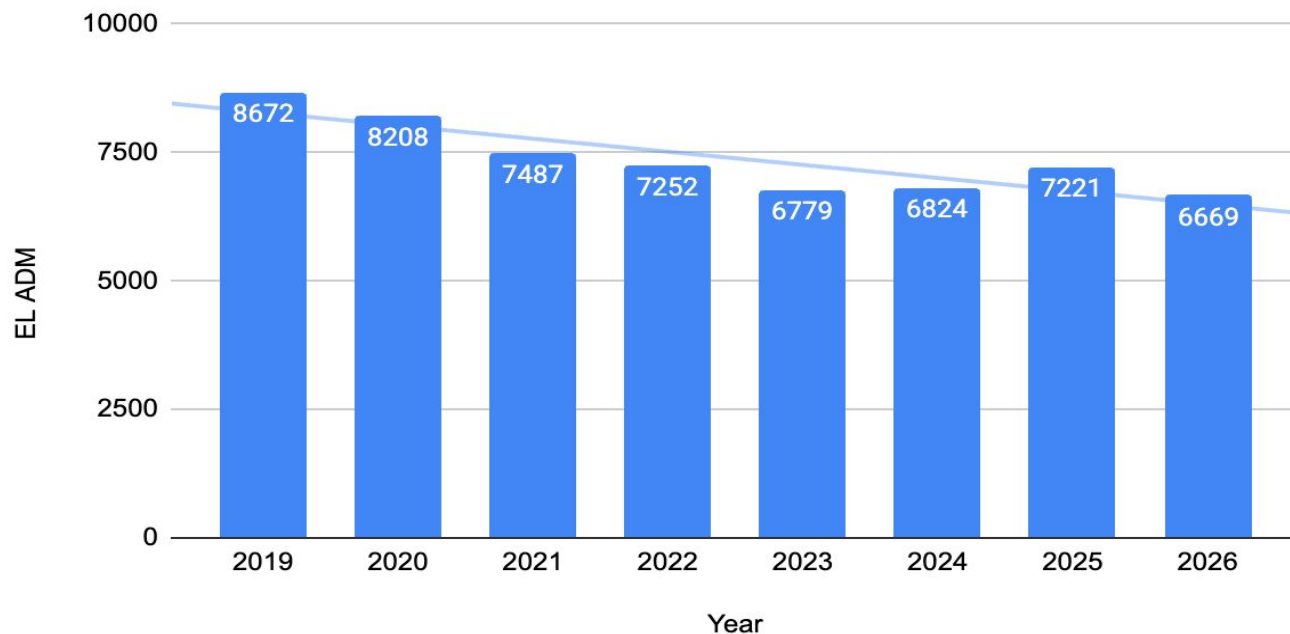
- **Enrollment:** the number of students who are enrolled in SPPS on any given day
- **Average Daily Membership (ADM):** the average of the number of students enrolled each day throughout the entire school year (roughly 175 days)
- The official October 1 enrollment count is typically higher than the year-end ADM.

SPPS EL Student Enrollment - Oct 1



History of SPPS EL Average Daily Membership

EL ADM Reported from MDE



SPFE Weighted Ratio for EL Staffing

Scale of Support

WIDA levels & Weights

WIDA Proficiency Levels	Weight
Level 1	2.0
Level 2	1.5
Level 3	1.0
Level 4	1.0

Key Considerations

Targeted High-Need Support

Students at proficiency levels 1 and 2 require significantly more intensive, specialized language support than peers in higher bands.

Newcomer Screening Trends

Newly arriving students predominantly register in the 1–2 score range on the initial WIDA Screener diagnostic assessment.

Weighted Ratio: Example School

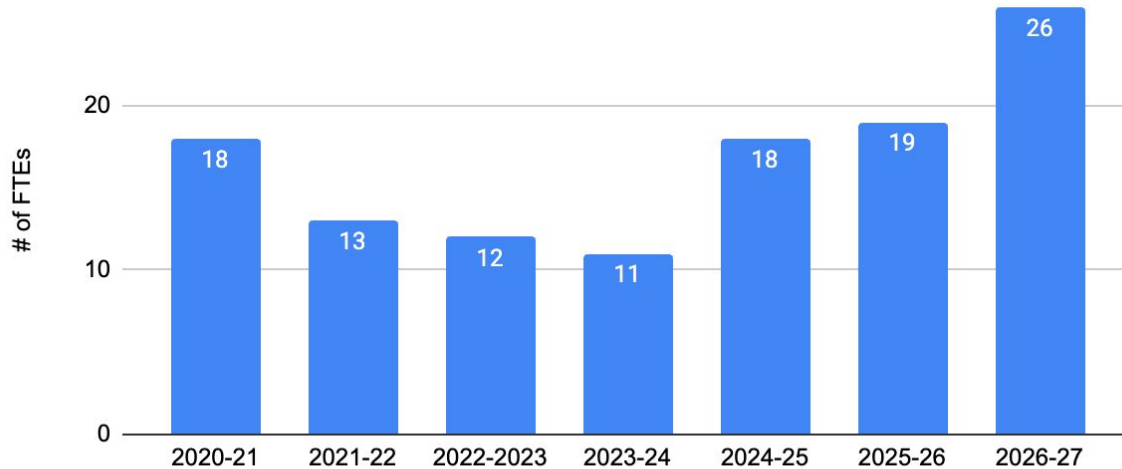
WIDA Level	Weight	Student Count	Weighted Count
Level 1	2.0	16	32
Level 2	1.5	12	18
Level 3	1.0	22	22
Level 4	1.0	8	8
No Level	1.0	1	1
Total	—	76	115 (2.2 FTE)

Staffing for SY2026-27

- Actions during Interview & Select and Placement
 - 15 - 1.0 FTE positions at 1 school hired
 - 19 split positions filled
 - No teacher is split between more than 2 schools.
 - 1 FTE position was split 3 ways to accommodate FTE needs for current teachers needing to round out their FTE

ML Teacher Splits

FTEs in split positions by school year



The 2026-27 split matches were driven by teacher preference during the Teacher Interview & Select process and placement.

Staffing: Where we are today

As of August 11, 2026 - 1 remaining ESL split position remaining

- Benjamin Mays and Farnsworth Lower for a combined 0.6 FTE (0.4 FTE at Ben Mays, 0.2 at Farnsworth Lower)
 - Interviewing probationary non-renewed due to budget educators who were released in June

1 Latino Consent Decree (LCD) position remaining at Farnsworth Lower

- Currently interviewing candidates
 - No LCD teachers were released. Will be an external hire.

MLL Executive Director Meetings with School Teams

As of 8/11/26:

- 17 meetings complete
- 4 upcoming
- 1 asynchronous via email

*Some splits were already in place and the only change was the amount of FTE allocated to each building

*Teachers meeting during the summer were paid 30 minutes supplemental pay through MLL

Meeting Content:

- Scheduling considerations
- Logistics
- Expectations for meetings, PLCs, conferences
- Contact person for emergencies

MLL Fall Adjustments

Fall adjustments will continue to use the same procedures of reassigning where necessary to be in compliance with SPFE contract language regarding staffing relative to weighted ratios.

- October 1 count
- Maintain ratio of 52:1
- Adjustments to buildings above 52:1
- If adjustments are necessary, building leaders and teachers are part of planning; changes at Quarter 2

Operations

Community Education



- Fall registration begins September 9, at 9 a.m.
- Received 21st Learning Grant starting this fall at 3 locations; Johnson HS and Farnsworth Upper and Lower
- MDE Grant funding room renovation and improvements at JJ Hill



- ABE 2 locations - Hubbs Center and Hubbs at Harding
- Fall recruitment is happening now.
- Worried about long term immigration policies on program



- ECFE In-person classes at 7 locations
- Outreach in the community, home visiting, and online options
- Transportation offered
- Nature PreK - 2 locations-offering 3 class options for families



- DC at 11 locations - 5 citywide district hub locations serving all PreK-5
- Continuing to hire staff to fill open positions for fall
- Fall enrollment is at 1338; up 32 and will continue to grow until school starts

Back to School Communications & Forms

- Back-to-school communications (emails, video, robocalls, text messages, social media, websites, events)
- Staff training on communications platforms and best practices, digital accessibility and Language Access Plan
- Back-to-school forms completed as of Aug 14:
 - Over 8,300 families have submitted (13,500 students)
 - **1,488 people attended a help session**

Back-to-School Forms Family Help Sessions

For in-person support completing Back-to-School Forms, attend a support session listed below. Interpreters and technology support will be available.

- **Tuesday, August 4:** Capitol Hill Magnet School, 560 Rondo Ave., from 3-5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 5:** SPPS Administration Building, 360 Colborne St., from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 12:** SPPS Administration Building, 360 Colborne St., from 4-7 p.m.
- **Thursday, August 13:** Como Park Senior High School, 740 Rose Ave. W., from 4:30-7 p.m.



School Readiness Tracker

School Name	Asst Superintendent	General Overview	Any general comments or needs? (Please add initials & date)	Building & Grounds Overview	Outstanding Building, Furniture and Grounds needs? (Please add initials & date)	Classroom Items Overview	Outstanding Classroom & Instructional-related items? (Please add initials & date)	Technology-related items for Student/Staff?	Outstanding Tech-related items needed? (Please add initials & date)	Enrollment Overview
Example School		Non-Urgent Needs	(AB 8.16) Parent night plan not complete - need help from Asst Supt	Urgent Needs	(AB 8.16) Playground needs to be weed-whipped	Complete	(AB 8.16) Missing math manipulatives for grade level (CD 8.17) Delivered manipulatives today. Talk to Head Engineer.	Complete	(AB 8.16) All student iPads on site	Complete
271 Belvidere		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Adams Spanish Immersion	Dr. Yeu Vang	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
AGAPE High	Adam Kunz	Unranked		Non-Urgent Needs	Childcare organizes the play area. 8/13 LVW Mulch has been dumped on grounds, but needs to be spread and we need weed whipping.	Unranked		Urgent Needs	LVW 8.13 social studies long term sub needs all tech rights, Schoology, email, computer assigned, campus, all teacher access. She will be at AGAPE all year due to teachers year long medical leave. (we are waiting for Debbie Hoople to respond to communication)	Unranked
American Indian Magnet	Nancy Paez	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Barack & Michelle Obama Elementary		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Battle Creek Elementary	Adam Kunz	Complete		Urgent Needs	8/15/24 Road construction update along Ruth Street: sidewalks closed to install a gas line. Three week project beginning next week. KL	Complete	Check on UFLI materials for two new teachers- resources here. KL	Complete	New projects were installed. KL	Complete
Battle Creek Middle	Nancy Paez	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Benjamin E. Mays IB	Nancy Paez	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
BridgeView	Heidi Nistler	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Bruce Vento Elementary	Dr. Kirk Morris	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented	Nancy Paez	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Central Senior High	Nancy Paez	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Chelsea Heights Elementary	Dr. Kirk Morris	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Cherokee Heights Elementary	Dr. Kirk Morris	Unranked		Urgent Needs	Grass needs cutting, dead trees, weeds and overgrowth in the front of the school. (GH 8/14)	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Como Park Elementary	Dr. Kirk Morris	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Como Park Senior High	Dr. Kirk Morris	Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked		Unranked
Creative Arts Secondary	Dr. Kirk Morris	Unranked		Non-Urgent Needs	Don't see our HVAC upgrade on next tab for a completion date. Weeds and overgrowth in the front of the school. KL	Complete		Unranked		Unranked

Facilities: Major Construction

- Over 50 projects at 33 sites summer '26
 - Remodeling, replacements, repairs, instructional AV
 - **Interim plans are in place for work continuing after August 31**
- Major Projects are multi-year:
 - **Wrapping up:** Vento (site), Johnson athletics, Wash Tech roofs, Farnsworth Upper, and Cherokee infrastructure projects
 - **Started this summer:** Hamline and The Heights major infrastructure work, Central furniture



Bruce Vento Elementary - new playground



Johnson High School Field/Track

Facilities: Cleaning, Maintenance, Moves

- **Custodial** restoration cleaning underway at all sites
 - Piloting Restoration Teams
- **Maintenance** - work orders and projects such as converting more lights to LED fixtures
- **Distribution** - Furniture moves, event furniture



Nutrition Services

100% of students receive free breakfast and lunch

- 64% students directly certified
- 11,603 Applications for Educational Benefits distributed
- Newsletters mailed to all homes



Nutrition Services

New Breakfast Items: Two new home-made muffins (Strawberry and Lemon Blueberry), Noodle Bowl, Cinnamon Swirl Breakfast Sandwich, Cheese Breadsticks, and a Potato Breakfast Bowl.

New lunch items: Tangy Asian Lemon Chicken, Cheeseburger Sliders, Chicken and Charro Bean Burrito Bowl, Big Daddy's Hot Honey Pepperoni Pizza, Lemon Pepper Hot Wings, Gyro, Philly Cheesesteak, Pad Thai Stir Fry, Tamales, Cuban-style Black Beans with Chilero and Sweet Plantains (menu name TBD), and more!

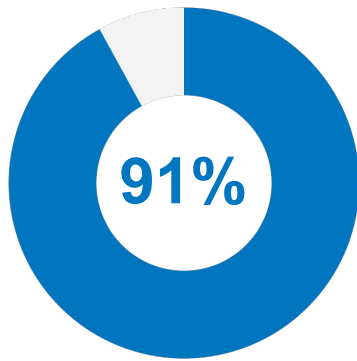
New services:

- New cold line open at all elementary schools (Day 1)
- Good to Go and Grill at all secondary schools (Day 1)
- A la carte pilot at middle schools

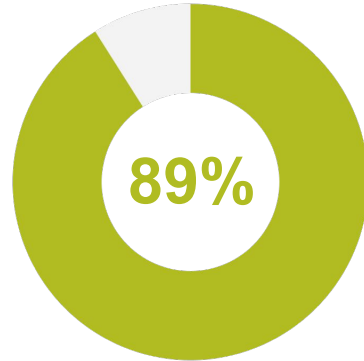


Student Placement

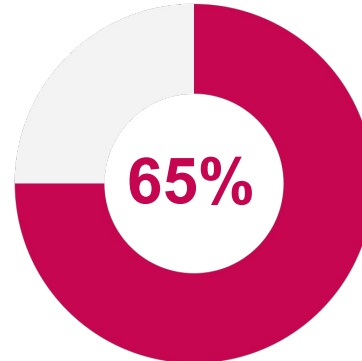
- Families continuing to enroll (Avg 100-200+ daily contacts)
- Secondary sites (6-8, 6-12, 9-12) are filling



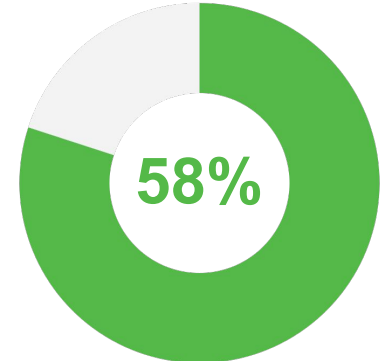
Kindergarten
planned
capacity filled



Pre-K seats
filled



Head Start
partnership Pre-K
seats filled



Nature Pre-K
seats filled

New Enrollment Management System

Explore Schools

- Filter by distance, grade, start time, interest
- View school information and links

Online Application

- Secure login for parents
- Ability to track their child's application
- Email & text notifications

The screenshot displays the Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) website. At the top, a navigation bar includes the SPPS logo, the district's mission statement, and links for 'Enroll Now' and 'SPPS District Home Page'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with a placeholder 'Enter an address to find nearby schools', a 'Filter' button, a 'Keyword' search field, and a 'Saved Schools' button. The main content area features a map of the Saint Paul area with green pins indicating school locations. To the right of the map, a list of schools is displayed, including Adams Spanish Immersion School, Agape, American Indian Magnet, Barack & Michelle Obama Middle School, Barack & Michelle Obama Montessori Elementary, and Battle Creek Elementary School. Each school listing includes its name, grade levels, and a brief description. A login form is overlaid on the bottom left of the map, featuring the Saint Paul Public Schools logo, the text 'Makes enrollment easier with AVELA', and fields for 'Email' and 'Password'. The form also includes a 'Log in with phone' link, a 'Forgot password?' link, a 'Log In' button, and a 'Sign Up' link for users who do not have an account.

Technology Services

Device Support

Staff Computers:

- 4,000+ staff (95% completion) received their Macbook last spring. Remaining staff receiving their computer this fall
- All school clerks, nutrition and other non-instructional staff receiving laptops this fall.
- New staff devices (iPad/Macbook/PC) provided within 3 days of HR onboarding and ticket request

Student iPads:

- iPads are ready and available for students
- Additional student iPad security and restrictions are enabled to keep students safe and focused.

Support and Tools

- Technical [guides](#) updated for staff on SPPS websites (tech tools, phones)
- Staff Technology Basics/Cyber Security course updated as part of Opening Week
- Installed new fiber internet connectivity to the athletic press boxes at Central, Harding & Humboldt to allow streaming of events.
- Parents/Guardians can now submit absence requests in Parent Portal and update contact preferences & preferred language.

Transportation

- Utilizing smaller school buses to accommodate additional specialized routes
- Busing information will be emailed and mailed August 28th
- 24,641 students currently riding to or from school at least one way
- Live bus tracking app is available for all yellow bus riders; app will be available for more students in 26/27!



The background is a solid blue color with a large, faint, light-blue star shape centered on the right side. The star has five points and is slightly tilted.

Thank you!