



DPS Extended Day Program Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 03/8/2023 (New from top to bottom)

Program Overview

In an attempt to bridge the childcare gap for DPS families and support the District's focus on providing intentional academic opportunities beyond the school day, DPS is collaborating with DEA and DFTA to develop a program that supports district students and provides a childcare option for working families. **The DPS Extended Day Program** will tentatively begin on **August 15, 2022**, and end on the last day of the school year in **May 2023**.

The extended day program has three required elements: (1) providing a safe, secure and supportive environment for students that includes snack and dinner, (2) academic assistance with homework; and (3) enrichment and physical activities. The academic assistance with homework must provide support for students and be in alignment with the school day academic program requirements, a standards-aligned curriculum, and instructional materials.

Below are frequently asked questions about the Extended Day Program.

Q: Will Extended Day launch the first day of the 2022-23 school year?

A: Yes, Extended Day will launch at all sites on August 15, 2022.

Q: Will Extended Day offer Open Houses before school starts?

A: Yes. Schedule as follows:

- **Wednesday, July 27, 2022 from 4:00p – 6:00p** (Dennis Lab- Kaleidoscope Campus, SEAP at Harris Learning Academy, Johns Hill Magnet School, and Muffley Elementary).
- **Thursday, July 28, 2022 from 4:00p – 6:00p** (Baum Elementary, Franklin Grove, South Shores, and SDMS. Hope Academy is **Jul 28, 2022 from 5:00p-7:00p**).
- **Friday, August 4, 2022 from 4:00p – 6:00p** (MAP and Parsons).
- **Friday, August 12, 2022** (American Dreamer- TBD)

Q: If I registered my child (ren) for ED last year, do I need to register them again??

A: No, you do not need to register your child again. You may login and schedule your child for the available dates of programming.

Q: Is Extended Day operating during the summer?

A: No, Extended Day is a before and after school program operating during the school year only. The school district through the Teaching & Learning Department will continue to offer summer programming during the summer.

Q: Is Extended Day operating during Spring Break?

A: No, Extended Day will not operate during holiday breaks (Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring Break). Extended Day will follow the district calendar for students.

Q: Can I register my student at any time ?

A: Yes, registration for the 2022-23 school year opens on July 21st until the end of the school year. However, yes there may be a wait list for recent applications. Extended Day staff are closely monitoring the applications and staffing available before accepting any further applications. Ms. Johnson (Program Coordinator) will communicate with the parents as they register if there is a current wait list. Recruitment and placement of staff continues to be at the forefront of our tasks. A safe, fun, learning environment remains the goal and Extended Day will not jeopardize the safety of our students and staff.

Q: Once I enroll my child, will I need to schedule them weekly ?

A: Yes. For those families who have already registered your students for Extended Day — remember to log in to the EZ Child Track Parent Portal <https://www.ezchildtrack.com/dpsextendedday/parent> (Desktop/Tablet preferred for easy access), prior to Thursday of week to declare which days your students will attend next week. **This must be completed before 5:00 p.m. to guarantee your student has a spot next week in AM and/or PM programming.** Any late attendance declarations will require authorization from the Site-Coordinator and will not be guaranteed a spot for the following week's programming. For those families who have not yet registered your students for Extended Day — you can still get them registered! If you're at all interested in using the Extended Day Before and After School program, even for a short time a couple days a week, you have to register your students now. Go to www.dps61.org/extendedday now for registration information.

Q: How will Extended Day Operate in regards to COVID?

A: The program will adhere to district protocols regarding COVID

Q: What will happen if a building or classroom is transitioned to virtual learning?

A: If a whole building is quarantined then Extended Day Programming will not be offered until the quarantine period is over. If there are one or two classrooms that are transitioned virtually due to quarantine, staffing may be affected by quarantine rules, and there may be periods when the program may have to close due to lack of adequate staffing.

Q: What will happen with Extended Day if the district or state transitions to virtual learning?

A: If a transition is made to virtual learning, then the Extended Day Program will not operate. The program is before/afterschool only and the majority of staff are internal and will be working during the school day hours.

Q: Is transportation provided?

A: Extended Day will not offer transportation to or from Extended Day for the 2022-23 school year. Parents are solely responsible for pick-up and drop-off.

Q: Who should I contact to ask and answer questions about the Extended Day Program?

A: Questions should be directed to Sherry Johnson, Extended Day Program Coordinator by email SRJohnson@dps61.org or by phone at 217-362-3063 or

Leslie Risby, Innovative Programs Coordinator for Decatur Public Schools by email LRisby@dps61.org or by phone at 217- 362-3000 extension 012038.

Q: How does my child qualify to enroll in the program and attend for free?

A: All district students Pre-K through 8th grade will be eligible to attend the program at no cost. The Extended Day Program is being offered at no cost and does not require any eligibility through CCRS or other state subsidy programs.

Q: What grade levels are eligible to enroll in the program?

A: Available for all Pre-K through 8th grade students enrolled in DPS.

Q: How does this work if my child is a half day Pre-K student?

A: AM enrolled Pre-K students may attend the AM program before school until the start of school and PM enrolled Pre-K students may attend the PM program after dismissal until the 5:30 p.m. end of the Extended Day Program. The Extended Day Program is a before and after school program. There is **no** programming during the day. **Parents must secure other childcare for their child during the school day.**

Q: My child is a part of a Macon Piatt Program. Will he/she be able to attend?

A: All students enrolled in Macon Piatt Programs (including county students) are eligible to attend the Extended Day Program. District students enrolled are eligible for transportation, however, non-district MSPED students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the program. The Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator will work with the Special Education Department to ensure staffing needs are met for each individual child's IEP.

Q: What buildings will offer an Extended Day Program?

A: 13 site locations across District: American Dreamer, Baum, Dennis, Franklin Grove, Harris, Hope, Johns Hill, Montessori, Muffley, Parsons, Pershing, SDMS, South Shores.

Q: What is the cost of the program?

A: The Extended Day program will be offered to district students that enroll **free** of charge.

Q: Are meals provided?

A: A snack will be offered at no cost for students enrolled in the Extended Day program through the District's CACFP Program.

Q: What are the Extended Day Program days/hours?

A: The program will operate in the morning and afternoon Monday - Friday during the school year. Program hours will vary depending on the Tier of each building. The program will open at 6:00 a.m. and dismiss 15 minutes before the school start time and the afternoon program hours will begin after school dismisses until 5:30 p.m. .

Q: Will the Extended Day Program operate on half days, when school is not in session, and during holiday breaks?

A: Yes. On half days the program will operate from school dismissal time until 5:30 p.m. Extended Day will follow the districts holiday break schedule for students **(NO Programming will be provided)**

Q: Can parents register their child for morning or afternoon only?

A: Yes. Parents have the flexibility to register their child(ren) based on their weekly needs, but will need to enroll their child prior to Thursday of each week. This will ensure that the Site Coordinator has the proper planning time for the upcoming week's staffing and activities.

Q: What will my child(ren) be doing in the Extended Day program?

A: The Extended Day program will first and foremost, provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for students; academic assistance with homework will be provided, and enrichment and physical activities are incorporated into the program. Including but not limited to: Project based learning, Art, Music, Physical Fitness, Recreational camps, Character education, and STEAM activities. Each building's Extended Day staff will work with Administration to determine their site's focus, schedule, and activities.

Q: What will the staffing structure look like?

A: There will be a Program Coordinator that manages all aspects of the program district-wide. Each building will have a Site Coordinator to manage the site, Certified DPS teachers, Non-Certified DPS Staff (TA's, Parent Liaisons etc.) and high school and college students interested in the field of education. Each staff will go through the District hiring process and complete a background check. Staff can be requested and needed as enrollment increases, to abide by the staff:student ratio, or to meet the needs of a Special Education student's IEP. Safety is first and foremost.

Q: Are staff allowed to have flexibility in their work schedule?

A: Yes. Each Site Coordinator will be responsible for scheduling their staff at their building. This is not a mandated program for staff. All staff will have flexibility in their scheduling. Site Coordinators will work with staff hired to coordinate scheduling for their building to ensure coverage. There is no commitment requirement to apply for the program.

Q: How is The Extended Day Program being funded?

A: CARES Act 2 Funding is covering the cost of the program and money has been earmarked for three years to sustain the program. Beyond the three years, the administration will discuss the next steps for seeking funding through state and federal grants, private donors, or allocating district funding.

Q: How does my child qualify to enroll in the program and attend for free?

A: All district students Pre-K through 8th grade will be eligible to attend the program at no cost. The Extended Day Program is being offered at no cost to the and does not require any eligibility through CCRS or other state subsidy programs.

Q: When does registration open?

A: Jul 1, 2022 online at www.dps61.org/extendedday.

Q: Will there be open houses and other informational sessions for parents to attend before the program begins?

A: Yes. Each School Site will have an open house prior to the 1st day of school. Please watch for information to be shared via emails and or district website.