



We fully recognize school closings and delays can be disruptive to normal family routines and they have an obvious impact on instructional time and daily routines at school. Maintaining progress and growth in the classroom is vitally important to us and school routines are essential in the process. We are equally committed to making the best decision we can to ensure that our students and staff can travel to and from school safely.

In an effort to help families plan, we want to share information about the decision making process to delay or close school. Our schools utilize a team, including the Superintendent, to travel throughout our district to assess road conditions, community sidewalks and our school parking lots. The team starts its work around 4:00 a.m. If the weather necessitates a delay or closing, we will try, whenever possible, to make the decision by 5:30 a.m. and immediately begin the notification process through our auto call system, text messaging, district social media, local television announcements and a message on the district website. The decision is even tweeted immediately from @DianeMankins.

Closings - The decision to close is made when it looks like dangerous travel or weather conditions are going to persist or worsen in such a way that it does not appear that transitioning our students and staff from home to school and back again is advisable. We are always reluctant to close our schools because of the serious impact it has on families and learning. Closings will generally be reserved for heavy snow, ice, power/heat outages, or extremely cold temperatures/wind chills.

Delays - A delayed start allows time for the conditions of our roads, sidewalks and buildings to be improved so we can safely transition our students and staff. An overnight snow covering or a frigid overnight that looks to get a little better with time are examples of when we might utilize a delay. When we make a decision to delay, we consider factors including the added safety of traveling in daylight, the impact of bright sunshine helping to reduce the impact of low windchill, extra time to start and warm our diesel buses to make sure they can run their routes as close to posted times as possible, and time to prepare our facilities.

Early Dismissals - The decision to release students early is extremely complicated and creates many childcare issues for our families, as such we attempt to avoid this option. However, there may be unavoidable situations requiring an early dismissal, or situations where an early dismissal might be announced in advance for planning purposes.

As we to navigate the winter season, we appreciate the partnership with our parents to ensure our children are properly dressed for cold weather. We also encourage parents to arrange for a friend or neighbor to transport children to and from school or the bus stop when needed. We will evaluate weather conditions on a day-by-day basis to make the best decisions for the safety of all students and strive to give parents as much notice as possible.