



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 6, 2016

Parents:

Winter is on its way. Our district can experience a variety of inclement weather situations and the results can mean different scenarios within our district: delays, cancellations, and early dismissals are all possibilities. We will always strive to be timely in our decisions regarding school - most importantly, keeping students safe.

How are decisions made? There are many factors that play into the decision to close or delay school. Current weather conditions, timing of potential inclement weather, road conditions, or temperatures all play a part. The process of deciding to close school starts very earlier in the morning and involves traveling district roads, calling individuals throughout the district, and conferring with other county officials. The final step is discussing conditions with the transportation director. The Superintendent makes the final decision.

How is the district notified? The decision to close school is made shortly after 5:00 a.m. We utilize local radio and television stations, district Facebook, and our Honeywell Instant Alert system to notify the public. Stations include:
Grand Rapids: WOOD TV 8 Lansing: WILX 10 Hastings: WBCH Ionia: WION

What is a Two-Hour Delay? A two-hour delay would be initiated if weather conditions appear to have improved in the district within two hours of the building start times. Predominantly used in situations such as fog, this may be used to provide a safe alternative to a full-day cancellation.

What does it mean if there is early dismissal? Early dismissal is an event that would take place if school starts for the day, but conditions deteriorate to a point where maintaining safety is a concern. Every effort would be made to avoid this situation as it has the potential to pose hardships on families mid-day.

What is cancelation due to wind chill? There is a county-wide agreement that school will be canceled if the wind chill is consistently at or below minus 25 degrees.

You may not be aware, but our district is one of the largest in the Lower Peninsula—221 square miles! Weather may fluctuate considerably across our vast boundaries. Decisions to close school are made based on the current weather conditions. With this in mind, please know that if you feel it is unsafe for your child to attend school, we will always support the decision to be safe. We appreciate the support.

Together for Safety and Excellence,

Randall J. Fleenor
Superintendent