

Inclement Weather Protocol

There is no set state policy or district policy concerning closure of school due to inclement weather. Thus, the decision to open, delay, cancel, or close early is a decision based on various factors with the safety of students and staff as our primary concern.

Temperature/Wind Chill

When it comes to cold weather, we, as most area schools do, refer to the attached wind chill chart. When wind chills approach the -18 mark, we delay school. If the temperature is going to stay at that level (-18) for a good portion of the day, then we close school. On very cold mornings when school is open or delayed, we do have a spare bus running and ready to go in case we have an issue with a bus.

Snow/Ice

These days can be very trying at times. Deciding to delay or close relies mainly on two factors: 1 – How soon can road crews clear all the roads in the district; and 2 – How accurate is the weather forecast? We do drive the roads every day that they are in question. We try to have a decision by 5:30 am.

Our office frequently receives calls concerning releasing school early. This is not as easy as it sounds. Often, this would mean that our buses would be on the roads before road crews can attend to the roadways. Another factor is that we must make sure younger students have someone to tend to them when they arrive home on the bus. If the weather forecast shows afternoon concerns we would try to make the call to release early the night before to give parents time to make plans.

I understand the frustration of when we move from a delay to a closure. Often this happens from the forecast. The hourly forecast may call for snow to quit by 6 am or so, which gives us plenty of time to clear our walks, driveways, and parking lots. The two hour delay usually gives road crews the time to attend to the districts roads. Sometimes, however, despite the forecast, it is still snowing at 7:30 am, and we have to close. If we have to move from a delay to a closure, we do so by 7:30 am.

The other issue that often arises is when the county enters into a snow emergency. Below is the list of snow emergency levels and our methods of response.

Snow Emergency Classifications

LEVEL 1: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously.

This is the level that can be difficult to decide. We look closely at the hourly forecast in determining the school's decision to go, delay or close. The early morning drive and actual condition of the roads also play a major part in the decision-making process. Snow emergencies

are issued by the Ashland County Sheriff's Department for the whole county, which does not necessarily mean the entire county is bad. That is why driving the actual roads is so important. The northern part of Ashland County can be much worse than our district.

LEVEL 2: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work. Motorists should use extreme caution.

If we are under a Level 2, we will delay or close. If continued snow or heavy winds are in the forecast, we would likely close. If weather conditions are expected to improve, the two-hour delay might be utilized to give road crews a chance to plow roadways.

LEVEL 3: All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be driving during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel or a personal emergency exists. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

Easiest call: we are closed.

If at any time you have questions concerning inclement weather, you may call me. My direct line is 419-368-8501. Remember, on questionable days I may be out driving roads, but I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding of these sometimes difficult decisions that occur during the winter season.