

Guidelines for School Delays and Closings Due to Inclement Weather

Concrete rules do not exist in making decisions regarding school delays and closings due to inclement weather, however, these guidelines will serve as a reference for Canton Public Schools.

- Weather conditions are variable; however, the safety of children and staff will guide decisions regarding delaying or closing.
- Canton Public Schools believes the public expects schools to be open and provide educational services and other services to its students.
- Canton Public Schools understands that all parents/guardians are committed to keeping children safe, therefore, parents/guardians will dress their children appropriately for the existing weather conditions when sending their children to school.
- We recognize that it is first and foremost a parent/guardian decision as to whether or not a child should attend school on inclement weather days.
- Canton Public Schools respects the parent's/guardian's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open, or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's/guardian's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination, and the student will be counted as absent, per Massachusetts code. **Students who are absent due to inclement weather will be given the opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.**
- The ultimate decision of whether school will be closed, delayed, or closed early is based on whether our buses can safely transport students. The decision on whether it is safe enough for teenagers to drive is a personal decision between each parent/guardian and teenager.

Communication

- In the event of inclement weather, Canton Public Schools communicates and works closely with the Town's public safety officials, Public Works administrators, CPS facilities personnel, and other school districts, and we monitor weather reports from multiple sources to evaluate travel conditions.
- Once the decision is made, CPS will make every effort to notify you in a timely manner, usually early in the morning (around 5:30 AM) and possibly, although seldom, the night before.
- Automated phone messages through Blackboard via phone call, text, and email are sent per your notification preferences from student registration. Please contact your school if you wish to update your preferences.
- Delay/Closing announcements can also be found on the District's website: <http://www.cantonma.org>
- Media outlets that are contacted and informed of the delay/close decision include:
 - **Television:** WCVB-TV, WBZ, WHDH and WFXT (Please check your cable guide or station website for local listings.)
 - **Radio:** WHDH-AM and WBZ
 - **Twitter:** @CantonSuper
- When school is canceled, all classes and activities are canceled for the day, including evening classes, sports, and recreation programs held at the schools.

Delayed Starts Due to Inclement Weather

Either a 1-hour, 90 minute or 2-hour delay could be implemented. Please see the chart below for information regarding your respective school. When there is a delayed opening, morning bus pickup and the start of classes are postponed, depending on the length of the stated delay. With a delayed opening, lunch, afternoon dismissals, and all other school activities take place at their regularly scheduled times.

School	1 Hour Delayed	90 Minute Delayed	2 Hour Delay
Lt. Peter M. Hansen	9:40 AM	10:10 AM	10:40 AM
John F. Kennedy	9:40 AM	10:10 AM	10:40 AM
Rodman Preschool	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Dean S. Luce	10:10 AM	10:40 AM	11:10 AM
Galvin Middle School	8:45 AM	9:15 AM	9:45 AM
Canton High School	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM

Early Dismissal Due to Inclement Weather

It is rare that schools will be closed prior to the scheduled end of the school day. The chart below depicts the early release schedule for a half day early release. On these days, lunch will **not** be served. It is possible we will call for a 1 hour or 2 hour early dismissal. This option will be used only if impending weather conditions jeopardize the ability to safely transport students to their homes/bus stops at the end of the day. On these days, lunch will be served. Refer to your school's regular dismissal time to determine the 1 hour or 2 hour ending time.

The need for driving slower and allowing for additional travel time does not necessarily indicate that conditions are unsafe for travel to or from school. It is understood that varying interpretations and opinions exist in terms of a "right" decision regarding whether or not to delay the start of school or close for the day. However, before a decision is made, as much information is gathered as possible. Canton is comprised of 19.6 square miles; it is possible that one part of the district is experiencing safe conditions, while another part is not. Likewise, it is possible for other school districts to be experiencing different weather/road conditions than those within Canton.

If you have not already done so, please develop alternate plans for child care. Alternate child care plans should accommodate the possibility of (a) school closing for the entire day, (b) the implementation of a delay schedule, and (c) the early closing of school.

If your child's bus stop is not accessible due to snow, please tell your child to wait for the bus in the nearest driveway or open sidewalk. Children should not wait for the school bus on the street.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding in regard to these matters, both are truly appreciated. As always, feel free to contact my office with any concerns or questions at 781-821-5060 x1134. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Derek F. Folan
Interim Superintendent of Schools