

November 30, 2020

Dear RSU 16 Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This is a letter to advise you of our “school closing” announcement procedure.

1) If the weather becomes bad enough and we need to close school, you will be notified via our automated calling system to all contact numbers we have in your child’s file. We also urge you to listen to the following television stations:

“WMTW” (CHANNEL 8 TV), “WCSH” (CHANNEL 6 TV), “WGME” (CHANNEL 13 TV)

We will try to contact the television stations by 5:30 a.m., but cannot guarantee the announcement will be aired by then. We will also post the closure on our Regional School Unit 16 Facebook page. Students who do not have in-person learning that day and VL5 students will also have a snow day.

2) In certain circumstances, we may simply delay school to allow the town crews to plow, sand, and salt the roads to make them safe. When this happens, all morning buses will run late (usually one-two hours). School will still close at the regular time. If school is delayed in the morning on a WEDNESDAY, there will be NO HALF DAY. Students stay until regular release times. If school is delayed on any morning, there will be NO morning PreK. Elementary VL5 students will also have a delayed start.

3) We will make every effort to limit the call for an early dismissal. If that should happen, you will be notified via our automated calling system and all announcements will be made on the television stations listed above. If early dismissal is necessary, the decision should be made by 11:00 a.m. Buildings will be closed to all activities when school is canceled or dismissed early. When school is canceled or dismissed early, there will be no practices for any extra-curricular activity. Due to COVID-19 protocols, transportation is based on a single-pick up and drop off location that students normally use. Unlike previous years, we cannot offer alternative drop offs on early dismissals. Elementary VL5 students will also have an early dismissal.

4) As parents, you always have the final decision. If you feel it is too dangerous for your child(ren), please keep them home. We do ask that you call the school. You may not always agree with the decision to cancel or postpone our schools’ starting time. Unfortunately, making these decisions are not an exact science, and it is simply a best guess at 5:00 a.m., after consulting with our Operations and Transportation Directors, road commissioners and area superintendents. There may also be a few occasions when RSU 16 will cancel or delay school while other districts around us may not do the same. We err on the side of caution when transporting our students.

5) Currently, our last day of school is Monday, June 7th with no snow days. This school year we will plan to use up to four (4) snow days. If we use the four (4) snow days, our last day of school will be Friday, June 11th. If we go over four (4) snow days, we will move to remote learning plans instead of calling a snow day. If the power is out, then we would need to reconsider and possibly add an additional snow day. The revised school calendar can be found on our website - www.rsu16.org.

I would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Healey