



November 19, 2021

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

This is a letter to acquaint you with 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 watch 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. It is posted on our Regional School Unit 16 Facebook page.

- 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 EARLY RELEASE. Students stay until regular times. If school is delayed on any morning, there will be NO morning PreK.
- 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 will 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.
- 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 is 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. Because there are some unusually hilly and sharp turning roads in RSU 16, there may also be a few occasions when RSU 16 will cancel or delay school when others 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 13th** with no snow days. This school year we will plan to use up to four (4) traditional snow days. **If we use the four (4) traditional snow days**, our last day of school will be **Friday, June 17th**. If we go over four (4) snow days, we will move to remote learning instead of calling a snow day. If the power is out, then we would need to reconsider and possibly add an additional snow day.

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

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Healey

Amy Hediger