

## **Sparta Area School District**

### Article 416 - Inclement Weather Procedures

District policy authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to close schools, start them late or dismiss early, and make other school decisions regarding inclement weather and other emergencies in accordance with these guidelines. Information for making weather related decisions will be obtained from NOAA (NOAA.gov).

Schools may be closed or delayed for the following reasons:

1. Snow, ice, fog, severe drifting – both existing and predicted
2. Severe Cold: -20 degrees F or -35 degrees F wind chill recorded at 5:00 AM. are temperatures at which severe cold will be considered as a factor in delaying school start time or closing school in conjunction with other relevant factors including, but not limited to:
  - Streets and sidewalk conditions
  - Ability of buses to transport safely
  - Hazardousness of driving conditions
  - Power outages
  - Other winter weather conditions
3. Severe Heat: Heat Index threshold of 105 degrees F. The threshold level is a point at which severe heat/humidity will be considered in early closing of school or complete closing in conjunction with other relevant facts and conditions that might be present. The threshold is not automatic. Schools may or may not be closed because of severe heat/humidity depending upon all factors that need to be considered and the district administrator's decision.
4. Heavy absenteeism due to widespread, ongoing illness or excessive cancellation of school bus routes due to weather conditions.
5. Other Factors: Damage to a school building, failure of utilities (gas, water, electricity, sewer service) or other reasons as deemed necessary by the district administrator.

Under certain conditions, mainly icy roads, fog and snow, school opening may be delayed two hours. If there is a one hour late start, breakfast will be served one hour later than normal. No breakfast will be served if there is a two hour late start. There is no A.M. preschool if school is postponed for 1 or 2 hours. If this situation occurs, all practices, games, and other before school activities will be cancelled for that day in the interest of student safety.

Local radio and television stations will be given information as to which bus routes will not operate, classes or schools closed, or school opening delayed by 5:30 AM, or during that morning newscast. Information will also be posted on the district's website.

On occasion, school must be closed and students sent home before the end of the school day due to inclement weather. Radio stations and television stations will be notified and asked to broadcast that schools will close early. Schools will be closed early for all students. When the district has early dismissal, it is the responsibility of the parent to see that someone is at home when the student is

delivered by the school bus. If this situation occurs, all practices, games, and other after school school activities will be canceled for that day in the interest of student safety.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference:

Approved:

Revised:            June 27, 2006  
                         February 26, 2008  
                         January 23, 2018  
                         April 23, 2019