

School Closing Guidelines Winter 2016-17

Wind-chill is a key factor in our closing guidelines.

District 64 coordinates guidelines with other elementary and high school districts in our community (62, 63, 79 and 207). The Superintendents work together on closing decisions for severe weather-related conditions or other emergency situations.

Safety is our priority

Our first priority is the safety of students and staff. At the same time, we know that closings create child care and work schedule problems for families. Districts understand that individual views of weather-related closings vary, and that not everyone will always agree with district decisions. For many reasons, we prefer to keep schools open. In deciding, Superintendents consult with local municipal departments and use National Weather Service data. Some factors we consider include:

- ❖ safety of students and staff
- ❖ severity of weather (extreme cold, flooding, etc.)
- ❖ timing of the weather
- ❖ ability of vehicles to travel safely and ability of students to walk to and from school safely
- ❖ operable condition of our buildings and ability to maintain safe conditions around the buildings, sidewalks and parking lots

Wind-chill is a key factor

Wind-chill notices from the National Weather Service are the primary meteorological source to determine and declare weather conditions, such as snow forecasts, wind-chill advisory, or wind-chill warning.

- ❖ **Advisory** - Schools will be in session when a wind-chill advisory is issued. A wind-chill advisory is typically issued when the wind chill is -20 degrees F or colder. The weather during a wind-chill advisory is not life threatening, but presents conditions that may result in inconvenience or pose moderate risk to safety.
- ❖ **Warning** - In contrast, schools will be closed under the condition of a wind-chill warning, which indicates life-threatening conditions and a risk to safety exists. Measures should be taken to safeguard life and property immediately. A wind-chill warning is typically issued when the wind-chill will be -30 degrees F or colder OR the actual temperature is -15 degrees F or colder.

How we inform parents and staff of closings

When a decision is made to cancel school, parents and staff can expect to receive an automated phone call and email. It is the parent's responsibility to provide up-to-date contact information and/or preferences to the school office. **School closing decisions will usually be made by 6:00 a.m. This allows Superintendents to monitor weather overnight and avoid unnecessary closures.** Weather closing information also is available through: District 64 and school websites; recorded on District and school phone messages; www.emergencyclosingcenter.com; and broadcast on TV and radio stations.



Here's to a safe
winter ahead!

Your family situation. . .

Any decision to cancel school or alter the school day is based on general safety conditions for all students and staff. Districts know that conditions may vary for each student or family. If, in the event of severe weather when schools are open, you feel it is unsafe to send your student to school, please contact the school office.