Preparing for Winter Weather

DISTRICT 97 EMERGENCY CLOSING PROCEDURES AND E-LEARNING DAYS
District 97 always strives to have schools open.

However, our top priority is the safety of our students and staff. If heavy snow or extreme cold make it dangerous to travel, we may need to close schools.
Making the Decision to Close Schools

The superintendent determines when and if conditions warrant the closing of schools. This decision is normally made in consultation with superintendents from districts 90 and 200, village officials, and our transportation provider.

Because of the many families enrolled in both District 97 and District 200, we strive for alignment when circumstances allow.

Variables Affecting the Decision

- Weather forecasts (advisories, watches, warnings, amount/timing of precipitation, temperature)
- Internal and external building conditions (power, light, heat, clear sidewalks)
- Availability of bus transportation and food service
- Conditions of streets, sidewalks and alleyways throughout the community
Two Scenarios for School Closings

E-LEARNING DAY VS. EMERGENCY DAY

If there is sufficient time to inform staff, families and students:
- CONTINUITY OF LEARNING, NO IMPACT TO SCHOOL CALENDAR

If the weather were to develop suddenly, or if there wasn’t enough time to notify everyone to have devices with them:
- NO INSTRUCTION, DAY IS MADE UP AT THE END OF THE YEAR
How will District 97 communicate school closures and E-Learning Days?

District 97 seeks to make and communicate decisions by 8 p.m. the night before, or no later than 5:30 a.m. the next day.

Notifications are sent via:

- Email to all staff and families
- Robocall and text message
- Facebook and Twitter (@OakPark97)
- District 97 website
- Emergency Closing Center
What is an E-Learning Day?

E-Learning Days provide an opportunity for students to learn from home on days when the school/district otherwise would have been canceled.

Students will have approximately five hours of learning/assignments—both synchronous (live with teacher) and asynchronous (self-paced).

More details: www.op97.org/elearning
E-Learning Day: Elementary Schools

Teachers take attendance at 8 a.m. via Zoom or Google Meet.

Assignments and instructions are shared via teacher web pages, learning management systems (Seesaw or Google Classroom), and/or email.
E-Learning Day: Middle Schools

Teachers take attendance at 9 a.m. via Zoom or Google Meet.

Assignments and instructions are shared via Canvas.
How has District 97 prepared for E-Learning?

STATE-APPROVED PLAN

Staff participate in annual review of the plan, which was approved by the state and D97 Board of Education in 2021.

DEVICES AND FAMILY ACCESS

All D97 students and staff have been issued a device. At-home learning is supported through the Internet for All program.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

Learning Management Systems are used by all grades: Seesaw for K-2, Google Classroom for 3-5 and Canvas for 6-8.
Tips for District 97 Families

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

CHILLY
- 1-2 layers
- long layer
- outer layer to keep out wind, rain
- warm shoes
- water proof
- weather.gov/safety

COLD
- 2-3 layers
- warm hat
- outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
- gloves
- boots
- water proof

EXTREME COLD
- 3+ layers
- warm hat
- face mask
- outer layer to keep out wind
- gloves
- boots
- water proof

Be Safe and Healthy - Winter Preparedness
Tips for District 97 Staff and Families

Review the E-Learning Plan.
Details can be found at www.op97.org/elearning.

Follow us on social media.
District news and updates are shared frequently Facebook and Twitter (@OakPark97).

Sign up for text messages.
Individuals must opt in to SMS messages from District 97 by texting YES to 79041 or 87569.