



MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #223

207 W. Main St.
Stillman Valley, IL 61084
Phone: 815-645-2230

October 9, 2026

Re: Winter Weather Procedures

Dear Meridian 223 Families,

I hope your child's school year is off to a great start! Hopefully, we have a couple of solid months of fall left. With the weather starting to change, I want to remind you of our winter weather procedures. Winter weather can impact school in three ways: a late start, an early dismissal, or a full-day cancellation. Please take some time to establish plans and protocols for your family in case any of these situations occur.

When a winter weather emergency happens, we will notify all local news outlets and issue an all-call to all numbers we have on file. You can also find updates on the Meridian CUSD 223 Facebook page. We will do our best to make and communicate a decision regarding school cancellation prior to 6:00 a.m. The one exception to this involves icy roads which we sometimes don't know enough about until our buses are en route. If you need to add your phone number or email to our contact list, please contact your child's school.

To increase transparency, I want to provide some insight into how these decisions are made. Our top priority is always the safety of our students and staff.

Cold Weather Protocol: When projected wind chills are between -25°F and -29°F, we are on high alert, and I will monitor the weather throughout the night. If they reach -30°F, school will be canceled. If projections are below -30°F, we may proactively cancel school the evening before.

Snow and Road Conditions: For potential snow days, our Transportation Director is in contact with Road Commissioners and county police to get updates. If road conditions are questionable, the transportation department will drive the roads themselves before any routes begin. They will then provide a recommendation to me by 5:00 a.m.

Ice: Ice is the most unpredictable and dangerous weather condition. There are rare occasions when conditions change rapidly and the recommendation for school closure is updated after 6:00 a.m. We will always listen to the advice of our transportation experts.

In the event of a school closure, we will use our scheduled emergency days, which are set for May 24-28. Please plan vacations and other family commitments accordingly.



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If a late start is initiated, school will begin at 10:00 a.m., and dismissal time will remain the same. Bus routes to school will be two hours later than normal, and we will not have the morning session of pre-school. Lunch menus for the day may be altered to accommodate the shorter preparation time. We appreciate your understanding with all required adjustments.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Your partner in education,

Dr. Michael Plourde
Superintendent