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## Welch Public Schools Inclement Weather Procedures

### What if it snows? What if the roads are icy? Will school be cancelled?

- Winter weather may bring road and driving conditions that cause changes in school operations such as delayed opening, early dismissal, or closure.

Even when road conditions in one part of the district appear passable, driving conditions on hills and in other areas of the district can impact the operation of buses on some routes.

- Normal school operations will prevail unless a change of schedule is announced.
- Expect morning buses to be late during severe weather.
- If buses cannot complete afternoon routes, students will be returned to their schools.

Our goal is to make information available to families about school closure or changes in the school operations by 5:30 a.m.

We provide this information to families in a variety of ways:

- One Call – The School’s Messaging System
- Social media posts on the district [Facebook](#) accounts.
- Local television and radio news stations (There may be up to a 30-minute delay for television and radio stations to broadcast this information once they receive it from the District. In addition, some television and radio stations may modify the message slightly before broadcasting it.)

**If you do not see Welch Public School closure information on any of these communications channels, it means we are operating on a normal schedule.**

When winter weather or hazardous driving conditions result in school operations, the district will announce either a 1.5-hour late start or closed status with or without limited transportation.

### 1.5 Hours Late Arrival Start Time (9:30am)

- This means:
  - All schools will begin 1.5 hours later than normal (9:30am).
  - Bus pick-up schedules will also be 1.5 hours later than normal.
  - Buses will use regularly scheduled stops unless the message specifies limited bus transportation.
  - Breakfast will be served when there is a 1.5-hour late start.
  - All BEFORE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, athletics and extra-curricular events are canceled.
  - Superintendent will determine if AFTER-SCHOOL activities, athletics, or extra-curricular activities will be canceled.
  - School will dismiss at the normal time.

Every effort will be made to announce cancellations with as much advance time as possible, but due to changing weather conditions cancellations may be made at any time.

## School Closure

- This means,
  - All schools will be closed for that day only.
  - All scheduled afterschool and evening activities, athletics and extra-curricular events may be cancelled. This includes all practices, mandatory or volunteer, any contests, games, matches, meets, events, facility rentals, etc.

## Deciding to Delay or Cancel School

- In spite of Doppler radar and other advances in weather prediction, it is difficult to be sure about how inclement weather will impact road conditions in our School District.

When snow or inclement weather is in the forecast, we have a plan in place to assess and monitor actual weather and road conditions overnight and in the early morning hours.

- Transportation staff drive the roads beginning 3:30 a.m. to assess driving conditions.
- Maintenance staff check for possible utility failure that may impact a school or neighborhood.
- The Superintendent makes all decisions to change school operating schedules based on the weather, road and driving conditions.

As a parent, you may decide to keep your child or children at home if you feel it's not safe to make the trip to school. You are in the best position to decide about your local conditions and your child's judgment and driving capabilities.

While we go to extensive measures to determine if roads district-wide are safe for travel, it's physically impossible for us to travel on every road at all times. The safety and security of our Welch students and employees will always be our priority but we rely on you the parents to be the final judge when it comes to the safety of your child.

Sincerely,

*Jeremy Ramsey*, Superintendent  
Welch Public Schools