



East Peoria Elementary School District 86

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EAST PEORIA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT 86

SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

January 24, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we begin to see more significant winter weather, I wanted to share some information on weather- related school closings so that you are aware. The safety of our students is our first consideration when it comes to cancelling school or events. Three factors that can have an impact on the decision to close schools due to weather are road conditions, temperature, and visibility.

All school cancellations will be communicated through the phone notification system, the District website, and local media (WEEK and WMBD).

Snow Day

Snow is probably the most common reason for closing school. Factors that are considered are as follows:

- Accumulation and drifting snow
- Icing
- Wind speeds
- Temperature
- Road conditions
- Forecast estimates for continued precipitation

If the road and weather conditions are questionable, I consult with a number of different people including, our maintenance supervisor, our transportation director, and area superintendents. There is no set expectation for accumulation amounts and much of the decision may depend on blowing and/or drifting snow. Every effort will be made to make a decision and inform families as quickly as possible, but a decision to cancel school and/or events generally will not be based solely on a forecast. Unfortunately, as you are aware, forecasts change and are not always as accurate as we would hope. As such, current conditions have to be monitored each morning that weather may be questionable.

Temperature

Extreme temperatures are a part of our winter months. We look at Wind Chill as part of our informed decision making process. The NOAA Wind Chill Chart is one such resource. It is not used as an absolute. Instead, this information guides the decision-making process along with the forecast (e.g., how quickly a warm-up is expected to take place). Again, I consult with other area superintendents as part of the decision making process.

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If you are interested in accessing the NOAA Wind Chill Chart yourself it can be found at <https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-wind-chill-chart> .

Factors considered in closing school due to extreme low temperatures are:

- Temperature
- Wind
- Duration and Timing of Cold Temps
- Safe Operation of Buses

If temperatures are extremely low and we DO NOT cancel school, we do ask that our parents/guardians ensure that their children wear appropriate cold weather clothing (winter coats, hat and gloves). Because of possible delays or inclement weather, buses could be late. We will do our best to notify parents if their child's bus is running late. If a specific bus is running late parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible.

After-School Events

The same process will be utilized when considering whether or not to cancel after-school events. After-school events may not automatically be cancelled when school is cancelled, as we prefer to retain some flexibility in decision-making.

We understand the impact that school cancellations have on families and never take the decision lightly. Student safety is our first priority, and we appreciate your cooperation and patience. It is my hope that this information explains the decision-making process and will help you with planning. As a parent/guardian you certainly have the option to drive your student to school or keep them home on inclement weather days, but we ask that you notify your child's school of that decision.

Sincerely,



Tony Ingold, Superintendent
East Peoria Elementary District 86