



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

48 Swan Way, Warminster, PA 18974-4866

(215) 441-6000, Extension 11002

FAX: (215) 441-6101

Dear Centennial School District Parents/Guardians:

The inclement weather season is upon us. Our district staff understands that our decision to open or close schools early in bad weather significantly affects families. We also understand that our students are better served academically and socially by being in school. However, as always, our top priority is the safety of our students.

◆ HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that we decide to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- ▶ Information on road conditions from transportation staff and the police. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the school district may be hazardous. Also, we must consider that some high school students drive to school.
- ▶ Amount of ice (or snow) accumulated.
- ▶ Whether precipitation is continuing.
- ▶ Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- ▶ Parking lot conditions. Administrators communicate with maintenance and custodial staff members responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- ▶ Temperature and wind chill. Please remember that some of our students walk to school, and some must wait outside for the bus.
- ▶ Weather predictions. We prefer not to decide based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. However, sometimes this is unavoidable.
- ▶ What other school districts are doing. When possible, we will also share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

◆ WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As Superintendent of Schools, I am responsible for the decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from the Director of Facilities, who consults with the Supervisor of Transportation.

◆ HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

The public will be notified by viewing the district website www.centennialsd.org, the district cable channel (Comcast channel 28 and Verizon channel 36), by tuning in to 6abc, NBC 10, CBS 3 or Fox 29. Also, an eAlert will be sent to the community, and a phone call and text will be sent.

◆ WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

We will attempt to decide by 5:00 AM to notify the community.

◆ WHAT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE?

Based upon the best available information, we will make one of the following choices regarding school/office opening, delay, or closure:

- 1) All schools and offices will open on time.
- 2) Schools and offices will be closed.
- 3) Schools will be closed; offices will be open (on time or late opening).
- 4) One-Hour Delayed Opening – means there will be a one-hour delay in opening and transportation pick-up (if schools are open).
- 5) Two-Hour Delayed Opening – means there will be a two-hour delay in opening and transportation pick-up (if schools are open).
- 6) Three-Hour Delayed Opening – means there will be a three-hour delay in opening and transportation pick-up (if schools are open).

◆ WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL EARLY IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Remember that, even if weather conditions worsen during the day, we are reluctant to reverse our decision or close school early due to the possibility of endangering students. Once we decide to open the schools, many parents leave for work. If we send students back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty homes. However, if conditions continue to worsen during the school day, we may need an early dismissal.

Although my staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel it is safe for your child to attend school, please use your best judgment to decide if your son or daughter should attend school. Please follow the attendance protocol and notify your child's school if they will not be attending. Also, discourage teenagers from driving in dangerous conditions and offer them alternatives if conditions worsen.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand our district staff's process to make the best possible decision for all in our district.

Sincerely,



Dana T. Bedden, Ed.D., CAA
Superintendent of Schools