

DCS Emergency Closing Procedures Severe Weather Planning

INTRODUCTION

Winter weather in upstate New York can be very unpredictable. When severe weather strikes our area, our number one concern is the safety of all Deposit Central School District students and staff. Specific plans and protocols are in place to ensure that all students and staff members arrive at school safely.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The decision to close school is made by the superintendent of schools working in consultation with the district transportation supervisor and representatives from New York State, Delaware County, Broome County, and our local towns and villages. Information provided by various weather service reports, newscasts, and computer simulations also factor into the final decision-making process. Finally, as needed, the transportation staff will drive district primary and secondary roads in order to evaluate travel safety. Variables that factor into the school closing decision-making process include, but are not limited to, amount and type of snow or freezing rain, timing of first snowfall and anticipated end, ability to clear primary and secondary roads and school district parking lots, building conditions, temperature, and wind and wind chill. Depending on a host of circumstances and factors, the District may elect to delay the start of school by two hours until 10:00 a.m., close for the day, dismiss early, or cancel all after-school events at the end of the day.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

In general, the decision to delay the start of school or to close for the day is made no later than 5:30 a.m. and is subsequently communicated to all stakeholders via the following media no later than 6:00 a.m.:

Television: Channel 12 WBNG, Channel 10 YNN, WIVT/WBGH TV34, WICZ FOX 40

Radio: WDLA/WIYN/WZOZ 92.1/94.7, WHWK 98.1, WAAL 99.1, WYYL 104.1, WNBF 1290 AM

Website: depositcsd.org

Cell/Telephone: Our School Messenger automated system will notify you via phone, text message and/or email depending on the information we have in our computer system. Please make sure your information is up to date.

FAQS

Q: *When is the decision made to close or delay school?*

A: *In general, the following timeline is used to frame school closing and delay decisions:*

5:15 a.m.—Preliminary decision is made to close or delay school

5:30 a.m. - Media outlets are notified of school closing or delay

5:30 to 6:00 a.m.—School closing/delay decision is communicated to all district stakeholders

Q: *Who makes the decision to delay or close school?*

A: *The superintendent of schools makes the decision to close school in concert with the district transportation staff, NYS and county officials, and Village and Town officials. In addition, select television and computer weather forecasts weigh in the final decision-making process.*

Q: If school is closed, are evening and weekend activities canceled?

A: If the Deposit Central School District is closed due to inclement weather, then all evening activities are canceled as well. On days when school is in session but conditions deteriorate over the course of the day, a decision to continue after-school activities will be made no later than 1:00 p.m.

Q: As a parent/caretaker, can I keep my child home on inclement weather days?

A: Parents/caretakers are encouraged to use their best judgment to determine what is best for their children. Parents/caretakers are expected to notify the school district of their child's excused absence.

Q: Are we going to have to make up snow days?

A: The school district builds additional days into the school calendar each year to account for time lost to inclement weather. However, in the event this additional time is exhausted due to extraordinary weather conditions, the Deposit Central School District Board of Education retains the right to extend the school year by scheduling school during vacation holidays such as the mid-winter break in February or the annual spring recess.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the District office at 467-5380.