

School Closings, Delays, and Alerts

In the event of an unscheduled school closing, delay, or early/late dismissal it is our goal to notify the community in an efficient and timely manner. This page shows the many ways we use to provide that notification. To help with your planning I am providing you some information that I measure in determining closures or delays.

Cold Weather Delay/Closing Considerations

Normally there will **NOT BE** a delay or cancellation due to a wind chill **ADVISORY** unless the cold weather is coupled with adverse road/driving conditions.

If the National Weather Service issues a wind chill **WARNING** in effect at the start of the operational school day, there may be a 2-hour late start or cancellation depending when said Warning will be lifted.

The protocol for wind chill advisory and warning is intended to provide a guideline but it does not replace the responsibility of the district to make the best decision for most students and families.

The Difference Between Wind Chill Advisories and Warnings

Wind Chill Advisories or Warnings are issued by the National **Weather** Service (NWS). It's helpful to understand what these mean in terms of possible late starts or school **cancellations**.

Wind Chill Advisory: Be Aware. NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values but not extremely cold values are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors (NWS Website). If adequate precautions are not taken frostbite can occur within 30 minutes on exposed skin.

Wind Chill Warning: Take Action! NWS issues a wind chill warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with a wind chill warning, avoid going outside during the coldest parts of the day. If you do go outside, dress in layers and cover exposed skin (NWS Website). This means that frostbite can occur within 15 minutes on exposed skin.

If your student needs additional clothing for cold **weather**, please contact your school counselor's office or the main office at your school. Staff members will work to assist your child.

As always, parents can make the decision to keep their child home from school if they feel that **weather** conditions pose a hazard. Please call the school to let the office know if your child will not be attending classes that day.

School Messenger

The school district uses a notification service known as School Messenger to initiate automated phone calls or mass-email messages. A large amount of numbers can be called in a short amount of time. The phone numbers for each student or faculty member are pulled from our student database system. It is very important that these numbers be kept current. **If you have any questions, please call the building secretary where your student attends.**

In addition, we will post on local TV stations, Facebook and our website.

Road and Driving Conditions

Ice, snow, drifting, visibility and temperatures are factors in determining delays, cancellations and early dismissals. Radar and forecasts are monitored, communication with other superintendents is made, physically driving the roads is done and communication with the National Weather Service occurs when provided. Our Transportation Supervisor and myself drive roads the night before and/or in the wee hours of the morning when road/driving conditions are in question for the upcoming day of school. The hope is to have a decision made before 6:00 am.

Please know that we do not take these decisions lightly. Unfortunately, Iowa weather is unpredictable and can change quickly, so hindsight always determines if the call was correct.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Van Sickle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being the most prominent part.

Mike Van Sickle, Superintendent