



EBCE - SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND CANCELLATIONS

The superintendent is empowered to close the schools or to dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety, health, or welfare of students and/or staff members.

Determinations on whether to close schools, start late or release students early due to the weather are driven by the needs of the entire District community, with consideration given to localized conditions. It is recognized that because of the District's large and diverse geographic area, weather conditions may vary greatly within the District. Therefore, decisions regarding school closures, late starts and early releases may not be uniform across the District. For example, a storm concentrated in the foothills may result in a closure of only the mountain schools.

When severe weather is threatened or is occurring, parents may determine that it is too hazardous to send their child to school, that their child should not come to school until after the scheduled start time, or that their child needs to come home early. Class time missed by students as a result of such determinations made by their parents shall be dealt with and accounted for as an excused absence.

During moderate nighttime snowstorms, snow removal personnel shall commence plowing in sufficient time to ensure safe parking and pedestrian movement for normal morning operations at the schools and the Support Services Center. At the same time, transportation personnel shall assess the severity of the storm and area road conditions and analyze data from the National Weather Service and area emergency services.

Weather, road, other relevant information, and a recommendation concerning school closure or late start will be relayed to the superintendent before 5:00 a.m. A decision on a course of action shall be made not later than 5:30 a.m., and communication of the decision to all affected personnel and the media shall begin immediately thereafter.

District-wide or area-specific full-day closures will occur under extreme circumstances if conditions are such that it would be unusually hazardous for students to walk and/or be bused to school.

If weather or other emergency conditions are severe but not serious enough to close schools, the superintendent may announce a two-hour late start. In that event, schools shall open two hours later than their normal start times and students who ride the bus shall report to their bus stop two hours later than their normal pickup time. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, District employees shall report for work one hour later than their normal start times.

Information on closures and late starts will be broadcast over television channels 2, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 31, and over radio stations KCOL, EAGLE, BEAR, KCSU, KIIX, KLOV, KOA, KOOL 105, KTRR (TRI-102), KUAD, KUNC and KWBI. Information will also be available through e-mail.

District personnel should consider broadcast information to be accurate, and should not call the television or radio stations or the District switchboard. Support Services Center telephone lines must be kept open for emergency communications.

Storms commencing during a school day shall be assessed as they occur. If a midday closing is necessary, information shall be passed to all locations via the emergency telephone calling chain. Building administrators must ensure that sufficient staff remain on site until all students have been released to a safe mode of transportation home.

Current practice codified by Board in 1995
Adopted by Board: May 22, 1995
Revised by Board: April 28, 1997
Revised by Superintendent: December 17, 2007

LEGAL REFS:
C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(n)
C.R.S. 22-33-104

CROSS REFS:
JLIB, Student Dismissal Precautions