

Calling Off School due to the Weather

Providing details on this process.

Some mornings can be very tricky. It is much easier with a foot of snow or a wind chill of 40 degrees below zero; however, on some mornings, the weather changes depending on the time you decide. A two-hour delayed start might be considered, but with an understanding of how that disrupts families' lives.

The entire process can begin as early as 3:00 AM. The Transportation Directors of all area schools are out driving roads to check on the conditions and communicate this to others. Our Maintenance Director checks on heat in the building, possibly freezing pipes, and ensures sidewalks are shoveled and salted. The parking lot must be plowed, and all buses fired up to see if they run efficiently.

Area weather people from Adams County EMS usually send forecast information several days before the event if they know the predicted weather pattern. Sometimes, the weather's path or conditions are not indicated in all the data. Area superintendents in Adams and neighboring counties are communicating, especially in areas of "like" weather patterns. Road Commissioners and highway, county, and city road departments give input. Bus drivers share information as well. Sometimes, in Liberty, people whose job requires driving at night may give us a heads-up. All of this is considered, but it is still not a perfect science.

Afterward, we debrief on what should be different, and bus drivers consulted because they were driving in the weather. Plans are reviewed and revised as necessary.

Please know that at any time, if you do not feel safe driving or having your child drive and you live on a bus route, call Liberty Transportation (217-645-3416), and we can stop to pick up your child.