

# Jennings School District

## Inclement Weather Information

When the Jennings community experiences inclement weather conditions, the safety of the students and staff in the Jennings School District is the most important consideration. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions we receive regarding inclement weather.

**By 9:00pm Conversations will start with other superintendents.**

**Q: How is the decision made to cancel school for inclement weather?**

Director of Facilities, begins driving routes as early as possible based on when the snowfall or ice storm to test road conditions and driving conditions. Even if the roads are initially satisfactory, the drivers may make several trips if snow continues to fall, or if the weather continues to deteriorate. JSD administrators also stay in close contact with city officials and authorities to determine the safety of the roads.

By 5:00am, the Superintendent of Schools must make a decision about school cancellation so the media can be notified. Prior to that time, the drivers keep in contact and give regular updates regarding road conditions. The superintendent considers several factors in making the final decision: weather predictions, highway department preparedness, time of day, wind-chill factor, as well as drivers' reports.

The JSD also has cold weather guidelines, which we monitor closely.

**Q: Where will information be posted regarding school closing?**

The JSD will post the information in the following places on our media outlets:

**Twitter:** @JenningsK12

**Facebook:** @JenningsSchoolDistrict

**JSD Website:** [www.jenningsk12.org](http://www.jenningsk12.org)

**Cable Channel:** FOX (CHANNEL 2), KMOV (CHANNEL 4) AND KSDK (CHANNEL 5)

School Messenger Communicate Alerts: School Messenger Communicate is our phone, text and email alert system. Parents of students and their emergency contacts are enrolled in the program at registration. If you are a community member and you would like to receive alerts please contact the Communications Department at

Local media will be sent information regarding school closings as well.

**Q: My part of the city is safe to drive. Why are we cancelling school?**

Jennings has a wide variety of roads and terrain, including areas with narrow, steep hills that can become impassable in certain weather conditions, and rural areas where snow removal can be challenging. Your part of the city may be passable, but that does not mean that vehicles can safely bring children to school in all parts of Jennings.

**Q: What happens when the wind chill is below zero?**

The bus will be deployed at 20 degrees and below. When the wind chill is at **-10 degrees** or colder, school will not be in session. All learning will be online.

**Q: What if bad weather arrives when children are in school?**

If inclement weather arrives while students are in school, a decision to close school for the remainder of the day may be made. This decision will be made pending so as not to interfere with lunch schedules and preschool schedules. School principals will be contacted immediately. All students picked up by parents may leave school as soon as parents arrive.

**Q: Will all after-school activities be cancelled if school is closed?**

Typically, after-school student activities will be canceled when school has been closed all day or closed early. This will also be on a case by case basis in regards to sport activities.

**Q: What can parents do to help their students and schools prepare?**

Here are four suggestions to prepare: (1) Review the information you have listed as emergency contacts to make sure that the numbers are updates. (2) Contact your childcare facility, if necessary, to find out what their procedures are for inclement weather. (3) Make plans ahead of time and communicate them with your children so they understand what to expect during an early school dismissal due to inclement weather. (4) Understand that closures are for the safety of children throughout the district. While the conditions of your neighborhood streets may be fine, other areas of the district may be experiencing harsher weather or have more challenging road conditions.

**Q: Other districts are closing for weather. Why aren't we?**

Each district has its own unique set of weather, roads and city or county snow removal procedures. Additionally, nearby districts may receive slightly different weather or have different road conditions. We drive routes throughout our district so cars and walkers can get through and make the decision based on the specific conditions in Jennings.

**Q: Why are closure decisions sometimes delayed until the morning?**

Weather is very unpredictable. Frequently predictions of heavy snowfall or extreme cold do not end up causing conditions that would justify cancelling school. Waiting until morning allows us to drive the roads and make the call based on actual weather and road conditions.

**Q: Why doesn't JSD have late starts instead?**

It is extremely challenging for schools to utilize a late start schedule and can cause additional scheduling difficulties for parents and the schools. While we always encourage good attendance and we believe that students should be in school whenever it is in session, parents can make the decision to keep students at home if they believe that road or weather conditions make travel to school unsafe. Should a parent decide to keep their student home it is a virtual learning day. Students must login to be counted present for the school day. If the district has designated it as an inclement weather day, everyone will be online learning. If school is not in session due to inclement weather by 8:00 am, the district will have all students and staff login.

**Q: I am an employee. Should I go to work on a snow day?**

Please see Employee Inclement Weather Work Schedule