

Inclement Weather Procedures

Living in Minnesota, we are accustomed to experiencing all four seasons of weather and know that preparation is key to not only remaining safe, but potentially saving lives. In the event inclement weather occurs in Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District, the district has established comprehensive and consistent procedures for ensuring safety remains our number one priority.

District administration understands inclement weather decisions affect families and our community in a variety of ways. By sharing the details and rationale for our decision-making process, we hope that students, staff, and families can proactively prepare for potential, and likely imminent, inclement weather disruptions.

Definitions

- Delay: The start of the school day is delayed by one or two hours, with an altered class schedule.
- Close: The school day is closed in its entirety or, if necessary, dismissed early.
- Open: The school day is open and scheduled as normal.

How is the decision made?

In times of inclement weather conditions, we make the decision to open, close, or delay school after careful consideration of many relevant factors, such as:

- Review of weather conditions, temperature, windchill, and forecast, as monitored and reported by local weather agencies, such as the [National Weather Service of Grand Forks](#)
- Consultation with nearby school districts about the conditions, obstacles, and decisions they are facing, and to compare gathered research and notes
- Consultation with city officials about the timeframe for snow removal on city roads
- Consultation with county officials about the timeframe for snow removal on county roads
- Assessment of road conditions and neighborhood access in Warren, Alvarado, Oslo, and surrounding rural areas by our Director of Facilities & Transportation, with consideration of staff arriving safely to work, including bus drivers who must first report to work and then venture out again to safely transport students to/from school
- Confirmation of accumulated precipitation amounts, including rain, sleet, snow, and ice
- Assessment of facility conditions by Director of Facilities & Transportation (and/or department support staff) to ensure operational systems are working as expected
- Assessment of facility accessibility by Director of Facilities & Transportation (and/or department support staff) to determine if sidewalks, parking lots, and entrances are accessible for all stakeholders

Who makes the decision?

Discussion occurs amongst district administration, with the superintendent ultimately making the final decision to open, close, or delay school in inclement weather conditions.

When is the decision made?

If a delay or closure is necessary, the district strives to make the decision by 6:00AM.

How are students, staff, and families notified?

Communication to students, staff, and families is a crucial part of our inclement weather procedure. When a delay or closure is necessary, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District uses the following methods to communicate with stakeholders and the community:

- An email announcing the delay or closure is sent to staff and families through our mass notification system (JMC).
- A call announcing the delay or closure is sent to staff and families through our mass notification system (JMC).
- A post announcing the delay or closure is shared on the high school's and elementary school's Facebook and Instagram accounts.
- An announcement is placed on the homepage of the [district's website](#).
- An announcement of the decision is submitted to the following local media outlets: [WDAY/WDAZ](#), [KVLV](#), [KROX 1260 AM](#), [KTRF 1230 AM](#), [KKAQ 1460 AM](#), and [KKDQ 99.3 FM](#).

If severe weather continues and school is closed for the following day, stakeholders are notified in the same manner as the day before. Otherwise, students, staff, and families should assume school will be in session as normally scheduled.

Extracurricular Activities

In the event school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, all extracurricular activities are postponed. This includes all student practices, competitions, concerts, games, and productions.

In the event school is cancelled prior to the beginning of the school day, extracurricular activities may be held with certain restrictions and conditions in place, as determined and approved by the superintendent, principal, and/or activities director. This includes all student practices, competitions, concerts, games, and productions.

Parent/Guardian Decision

While the process we use is comprehensive, we understand that a parent/guardian may not agree with the district's decision to close, open, or delay school. If the weather conditions are

severe, any parent/guardian wishing to keep their child(ren) home for the day may do so by contacting the elementary school office at (218) 745-4441 or the high school office at (218) 745-4646. Any absence of this manner is considered an excused absence.