

October 19, 2018

Dear Parents,

Before the winter weather is upon us I want to remind you of the procedures we use to make the decision to either hold or cancel school. Please remember the final decision as to whether or not children come to school is up to parents.

We monitor the weather forecasts daily; the decision making for a delay, snow day or Blizzard Bag Day begins around 4 am. When a weather event is anticipated our transportation supervisor is monitoring both the Maine and New Hampshire weather forecasts beginning at 4am. The transportation supervisor is in touch with the road agents in all of our communities, for road conditions, as well as plans for plowing, salting and sanding. The Strafford and Carroll County Dispatch are also called to provide information on road conditions based on police calls, accidents, etc. Communication with bus drivers for conditions in their areas is ongoing.

Additionally, we have a service called Precision Weather which targets weather and road conditions in our specific area. It is not uncommon for WMUR to be reporting conditions that may be true for much of the state but not targeted or accurate for our specific region. The decision to hold school is based on all of this information. School is held only in the event that the assessment indicates that buses can safely pass over the roadways. Safety is the number one priority in making the decision.

If the roads are not expected to be in good condition (in other words buses cannot pass safely), by the time bus routes normally begin but they are expected to improve to an acceptable standard within two hours, then the policy is to delay school for two hours. If it is determined that road conditions will not be safe by 7:15 am then school will be cancelled. Every effort is made to get a message to you between 5:15 and 5:35 am, delivered through your chosen option(s) of voice mail, text or email.

These messages are for your convenience; however, even with the most reliable system we are still dependent on satellite technology, electricity, and the Internet to get a message to you. There is always the possibility that any of one these could have problems. If you do not receive a message please check Channel 9/WMUR or Channel 6/WSCH which lists the information about school closings. WOKQ also lists closings on their website, and several radio stations still broadcast the names of schools that are closed.

We are geographically the largest district in the state. This is important for you to know because it is impossible for us to know the conditions on every road. We are not a city district in a compact area. That is why we ask parents to use their discretion. If, in a parent's estimation, the roads from their location are not safe then they should keep their children home from school. Students will be allowed to make up any work that has been missed; and absence will be excused.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Cuddy-Egbert
Superintendent of Schools

