



West Fork Community School District

www.westforkschool.org

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West Fork Community School District Guide to Winter Weather Decisions

Overview

The number one priority for the West Fork Community School District is to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Due to this commitment to safety, there may be times when we close schools due to extreme weather conditions. The information and procedures described below provide families with a reference for how our District will respond to winter weather, as well as how we will communicate winter weather-related decisions.

The Superintendent has the authority to close schools, delay the start of school, or dismiss early as a result of extreme winter weather conditions. The final decision whether or not to close or delay school will be made by the Superintendent along with others, including our Transportation Director, county road crews, and input from area superintendents.

Communication

When a decision is made to delay or close schools due to winter weather, the information will be communicated as quickly as possible. Our goal is to have the message communicated no later than 6:00 am. If the decision is to dismiss school early, our goal is to have the message communicated no later than 11:30. When school is closed, delayed, or dismissed early as a result of weather, all buildings will be affected. If no announcement is made, it should be assumed that school will be in session.

School delays, closure, or early dismissals due to winter weather will be communicated using the following resources: **The District uses a notification service known as JMC Messenger to initiate automated emails, text messages, and phone calls. The phone numbers and email addresses used for these announcements are stored in our JMC student database system, so it is important that your contact information remains updated.** *If you would like to update your contact information, please contact your child's school secretary. (suggestion-, or log into your JMC account to make changes.)* The District and individual school websites, social media, Radio which will include: KLMJ, KJCY, North Iowa Broadcasting, Three Eagles Broadcasting, KIMT TV.

Cold Weather Delay/Closing Guidelines (New)

The West Fork Community School District will use the following guidelines to determine delays and closings related to extreme cold:

- If the National Weather Service issues a wind chill **advisory** that would be in effect at the start of the school day, there may be a two-hour delay. *A wind chill advisory means that wind chill values are expected to fall to between -20° and -29°F.*

- If the National Weather Service issues a wind chill **warning** that would be in effect at the start of the school day, there will be a two-hour delay. *A wind chill warning means that wind chill values are expected to fall to -30°F or lower.*
- If the National Weather Service does not lift the wind chill **warning** by 10:30 am, there will be no school that day.
- *It should be noted that the National Weather Service typically extends their wind chill warnings well ahead of time. Therefore, parents should know if school has been cancelled before students are picked up for the bus or have to be transported to school.*

Other Items for Consideration

- If school is cancelled or dismissed early as a result of severe weather, all after-school activities are assumed cancelled unless otherwise indicated by the Activities Director or individual coach/sponsor. If school is not cancelled or dismissed early but there is a threat of severe weather, the District will attempt to make decisions about after-school activities as early as possible and communicate those decisions using local media. This includes the After-School Program for both campuses.
- When there is a school delay, 4 year-old preschool will also be delayed. During a two-hour delay, 3 year-old preschool will NOT have school.
- The Superintendent's decision about weather-related closings is done based on a variety of information in an effort to keep students and staff safe. However, each family must decide if weather conditions warrant keeping their child/children home. A parent's or guardian's decision will be honored at all times. If a parent/guardian determines his/her child will not attend school due to extreme weather, contact the student's school and the absence will be marked as excused.