

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We understand that our decision to call for a delayed opening or to cancel school in bad weather has a large impact on families. The academic time we have with your children is important. As always, however, our first priority is their safety.

HOW DO WE DECIDE?

We make the decision to close school or to delay the opening of school by two hours based on a careful analysis of such factors as:

- Information on road conditions from the Bedford Police and Bedford Highway Departments.
- The ability to have the school parking lots plowed on time.
- The amount of snow and ice expected to accumulate and the expected timing of that accumulation.
- Temperature and wind chill.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have broken pipes or a lack of heat or electricity).

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As the superintendent, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and early morning conversations with 1) the Bedford Highway Department (who are called by the Bedford Police), 2) a weather service, and 3) the Manchester and Hooksett Superintendents of Schools, whose students also attend West High School.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

Click on the “School Closing Policy” link on the home page of the district’s website, www.sau25.net for a listing of the radio and television stations that will broadcast the information.

WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Even if conditions worsen, once students are at school it is usually better to keep them there, both because of the road conditions and because many students would return to an empty home. In the unusual circumstance that we decide an early dismissal is necessary, we will give adequate notice through the TV and radio stations listed on the website; will make phone calls to all BEEP and kindergarten parents so they know to come and pick up their children; and through room parent volunteers, will attempt to reach the parents of older students as well.

Please know that it is always your choice as a parent whether to have your child attend school in uncertain weather conditions and that we will delay or cancel school when we have timely information that indicates travel will not be safe. With good town plowing, we will most often be able to carry on with school as usual despite snow accumulation. We are more likely to delay or cancel when roads are icy.

I hope this note is of some help in explaining the process and care we take in making the decision to delay or close school.

Sincerely,

Tim Mayes, Superintendent