

Nov. 28, 2023

Hello SDNB families,



With the first taste of snow and cold temperatures, here are some important updates related to the winter weather and the school calendar.

What Happens When a Snow Day is Declared?

Student safety is of the utmost importance to all of us at the SDNB. When faced with bad weather and having to consider delaying or canceling school, I consult with other area school superintendents, SDNB administrators and other professionals. We typically begin with a conference call around 4 a.m. to discuss travel conditions, busing, and student/staff safety. We closely monitor all factors before making a decision.

Our typical threshold for canceling school, as it relates to wind chill, is negative 35 degrees. There are weather-related circumstances, however, that warrant the school day to be canceled even if wind chills do not reach the threshold. For example, extreme temperatures may affect the starting and running of buses, which would affect our decision regardless of the wind chill.

The following options may be used when weather conditions require a change in the school schedule:

1. Normal schedule - Buses will run a normal schedule but may be late due to road conditions.
2. Delayed morning start with normal dismissal times - All pick-up times delayed two hours with normal p.m. dismissal times.
3. School closed - All activities canceled for the day and evening.
4. Early release - Implemented to avoid pending inclement weather conditions.
5. Cancellation of after-school and evening activities.

We try to make decisions as early as possible so families have time to make childcare and other arrangements. Once the decision is made, we begin the process of notifying families through emails, phone calls, texts and social media (Facebook and Twitter) and other means. Information is also posted on the district website, and notices are sent to radio and television stations.

We make our winter-weather decisions with the entire district in mind but understand that individual circumstances vary. Choosing to keep your child home during inclement winter weather, when the district has not canceled school, is your prerogative. Doing so is considered an excused absence when parents or guardians follow the appropriate attendance procedures and contact their child's school.

Upcoming Days Off

Winter break begins Saturday, Dec. 23. Students and staff are off through Tuesday, Jan. 2, and classes resume Wednesday, Jan. 3. There are also two days off for students in January. There is no school Monday, Jan. 15, as we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, Jan. 22, which is a professional learning day.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at joe.garza@nbexcellence.org.

Joe Garza, Superintendent