



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School
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Dear BCSD Families,

As our pleasant autumn weather shifts to the colder temperatures of winter, I would like to update you on the factors that contribute to delaying and/or closing school in the event of inclement weather. The district follows a specific protocol to ensure we are making decisions regarding the safety and well-being of our entire school community in a cautious and timely fashion.

The following are general guidelines followed when determining a delay or closure:

- For snow, ice or other weather-related delays, we monitor the current conditions and the forecasted conditions for travel between the times of 5:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Given the weather conditions, we take into consideration the ability of our staff to plow parking lots and sidewalks, as well as, the ability of local municipalities to plow and make streets passable. The service that provides busing for our students, First Student, is contacted to ensure our buses are able to run safely. Additionally, the district contacts neighboring districts, local and state officials, and meteorologists to make the most appropriate decision.
- Start times for one, two and three hour delays will occur one, two or three hours following the schools normal start times, respectively. In the event of a two or three hour delay, morning pre-kindergarten classes will be canceled.
- Schools will also be closed if there is a forecasted sustained wind chill of -30 degrees Fahrenheit or colder or when the actual wind chill is a sustained -15 degrees Fahrenheit or colder between the travel times of 5:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. and/or 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The district uses forecasts provided by the National Weather Service.
- If extreme high temperatures are experienced and sustained in our buildings, the district may also elect to delay or close school.
- If school is delayed or closed, we make every attempt to provide notification by 6 a.m. the day of the closing. In extreme weather conditions, we may announce a delay or closure the prior evening between 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- When school is closed due to inclement weather, all extracurricular programs and school meetings (except for board meetings) are cancelled.
- On page one of the Board of Education Attendance Policy #7110, families are allowed to keep their student(s) at home in the event of impassable roads due to inclement weather. We ask that you let your student(s) building(s) know and the tardy or absence will be noted as excused.

Notifications of delays and closures are made through local media, automated calls, emails and postings to the front page of the district webpage. We also encourage you to download the district app to receive free push notifications. As always, the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Let's all hope for a mild winter this year!

Sincerely,

Tonia Thompson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Educating, empowering and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.