



WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Waterford Families,

As the seasons change, we know that families have many questions about the decision to close school due to inclement weather. While there is no definitive depth of snow or temperature threshold that equates to closing schools, we can share the rigorous process used when making the decision.

While our goal is to keep students in school learning, our top priority is student and staff safety. We take the decision to close school very seriously. There are several factors taken into consideration, including snow accumulation, road conditions, wind chill temperature, and weather forecasts. Before the decision is made, I consult with our Director of Operations, Transportation, and Security, who will drive the roads as early as 3:00 a.m. to assess conditions throughout our community. Please be mindful that the Waterford School District encompasses 40 square miles and that neighborhood conditions can vary significantly from one end of the district to the other. In addition, I will utilize information obtained during a phone call with a local meteorologist and other Oakland County superintendents. If it is determined that road conditions are too hazardous for buses and vehicles or temperatures are dangerous for student walkers, the district will be closed.

I am cognizant that canceling school can cause issues for parental schedules and we strive to give you as much time as possible to plan for childcare. There will be times when the conditions and forecast are bad enough to make the decision the prior evening; however, this will not always be the case. Please know that we will make every attempt to notify parents as soon as possible. There may also be a time where you, as the parent/guardian, do not agree with the decision to keep school open. You, as a parent, are within your rights to keep your child home if you feel the conditions are warranted.

In the event that the decision is made to cancel school, there are several ways we will notify our community. First, we initiate both a phone call and email to all families and staff registered with Blackboard Connect. We also notify all the Detroit television news stations (2 WJBK, 4 WDIV, and 7 WXYZ) and local radio stations. An announcement is also posted to the district website, on cable Channel 22 and district social media (Facebook and Twitter). Please note that after-school activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Status updates will be available on the district website, social media, and Channel 22.

I hope this letter sheds some light on a very challenging topic. Thank you for your understanding as we ensure safety and learning are our top priorities.

Scott A. Lindberg
Superintendent of Schools