

USD 109 School Closing Procedures

School Closing/Dangerous Weather:

USD 109's policy calls for schools to be closed due to weather that is hazardous. Our primary notification of school closings will be made through our PowerAnnouncement system that automatically contacts patrons of the closing. Beyond a PowerAnnouncement, we will also notify these stations regarding school closing:

<u>Radio</u>	<u>District Website</u>	<u>Television</u>
KREP 92.1		KAKE Ch. 06
	www.usd109.org	
KNCK 94.9		NTV/KFXL Ch. 04

PowerAnnounce TIPS:

- ***The system delays after the announcement is answered. Please wait a few seconds before you hang up.
- ***Please keep your phone numbers updated through your child's school office or the district office.
- ***If you miss the announcement, check the website for additional posts.

Making the determination to close schools is a delicate process. If you have followed weather predicting in KS, it is obvious that no one has mastered that skill as of yet.

Our process for school closing includes transportation Director, Mark VanNortwick, beginning road condition assessments as early as 3 AM. This sounds a bit early, but since our school district sprawls over hundreds of square miles this early time is necessary. The superintendent joins the assessment soon after and eventually is the one responsible to make the school closure decision. It is a goal to have this decision made by 6:00 AM with a PowerAnnouncement made by 6:30 AM. Conditions can vary throughout the county. So, no matter the district's decision, we understand if parents choose not to send their kids to school because conditions are more extreme in their part of the county.

Important Weather Notifications:

WATCH:

Means conditions are FAVORABLE for that type of impending weather; be it a Severe Thunderstorm Watch, or Tornado Watch, or Flash Flood Watch. So, "watch out" for these conditions, which are POSSIBLE.

WARNING:

Means...this type of severe weather is IMMINENT or about to happen!
(The Red warning light should be going off - in our heads, for this one.)
For example: Tornado Warning=means a tornado is imminent (approaching so take cover, or a severe thunderstorm that could produce a tornado - has been spotted. Again, a high alert word, so this is when the Red Warning light should be going off - in our heads.)

ADVISORY:

Winter Weather Advisory (for example:)

A Winter Weather Advisory will be issued when 2 to 4 inches of snow, alone or in combination with sleet and freezing rain, is expected to cause a significant inconvenience, but not serious enough to warrant a warning.