

## **School Cancellation Info/Snow Day Information**

### **WHAT FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED WHEN MAKING THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOL?**

While school closures are generally a result of poor weather conditions, other factors can also impact our decision to close school. The following issues are taken into consideration when contemplating a school closure, delay, or early dismissal:

- Building conditions, such as whether the buildings have electricity, heat and water
- The ability to clear ice and snow from school parking lots and sidewalks
- Information on road conditions from our transportation staff and local officials
- Weather forecast, whether the conditions are expected to worsen or improve throughout the day

### **WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE TO CLOSE FOR THE DAY?**

We make every effort to make our decision by 6:00 a.m. so we can notify staff, parents, and students, as well as inform local TV stations and post the decision on our website and social media accounts.

- Website: [www.chandler.k12.ok.us](http://www.chandler.k12.ok.us)
- East Side Facebook: East Side Elementary
- Park Road Facebook: Park Road Elementary
- JH/HS Facebook: Chandler Public Schools-Oklahoma
- Athletics Facebook: Chandler Athletics

### **HOW ARE STAFF AND PARENTS NOTIFIED OF A CLOSING?**

As soon as a decision has been made to start late or to close for the day, an automated message is sent to all students and staff. Information will also be posted on the District's website ([www.chandler.k12.ok.us](http://www.chandler.k12.ok.us)). We will also notify local news channels 4, 5 and 9.

### **WILL THE DISTRICT CLOSE SCHOOLS LATER IN THE MORNING IF THE CONDITIONS WORSEN?**

Because District buses begin picking up students as early as 6:15 a.m., we cannot reverse an early morning decision for schools to remain open. - even if weather conditions worsen throughout the early morning. Realizing that many parents will have already left for work, believing that their child was picked up for school, we will bring students to school and determine our next steps once we know that the students have arrived at school and everyone is safe.

### **DO SCHOOLS CLOSE AUTOMATICALLY WHEN FORECASTERS PREDICT BAD WEATHER?**

Because weather forecasts are not always consistent or accurate, it is impractical to rely solely on the forecast. While we prefer to make our decision based on visible or reported conditions, we do consider forecasts to determine if conditions are expected to improve or worsen throughout the day. The District monitors a wide variety of forecast sources to help us make the best possible decision.

**WILL BUSES RUN ON-TIME DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER?**

When the District’s schools are in session, all bus stops will be serviced, even during inclement weather. Buses may run late for a variety of reasons, including traffic and road conditions. Parents should ensure his/her child is wearing suitable clothing for the day’s weather in the event the child must wait at the bus stop for a longer than usual time. Parents should also have a contingency plan in the event that a bus is running extremely late or breaks down before reaching the bus stop. Make your child aware of what he/she should do or whom to call if the bus does not arrive. Identify a neighbor, friend, or a reliable “student body” that can help in the event of an unexpected emergency.

**DOES THE DISTRICT DELAY SCHOOL STARTING TIME WHEN CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE?**

The District has a two-hour delay process that may be used when conditions are either questionable or when they are expected to improve in the early-morning hours.

*Please Note: There are time when a decision to delay the start of the day is updated and school is then canceled.*

**WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DISTRICT HAS TO RELEASE STUDENTS EARLY?**

While we do everything possible to avoid sending students home before their scheduled dismissal time, weather and/or other factors such as power outages and water line breaks) can cause the District to “ Early Release” students. We will send an automated message to all parent contact numbers. Teachers at the elementary level will make contact with every family to ensure the student gets delivered to an adult. Please make sure your contact information is current.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE FOR AN EARLY DISMISSAL OF MY STUDENT?**

All families should make arrangements for their children in the event of a school closure or early dismissal.

- Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home, and how to contact the parent, guardian, or another adult with whom there are back up arrangements.
- Parent contact information, including work and cell phone numbers, should be kept up-to-date with the school office.
- In cold weather, students should be dressed appropriately for the conditions, as it is impossible to predict when school might have to be evacuated due to an emergency.

**WHAT IF I BELIEVE IT IS UNSAFE FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO DRIVE TO SCHOOL?**

If parents believe it is unsafe for their high school student to drive to or from school because of weather conditions, the student is welcome to ride the bus assigned to his/her neighborhood.

### **WHAT IF I BELIEVE IT'S UNSAFE FOR MY CHILD TO COME TO SCHOOL BECAUSE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS?**

Since parents and guardians are the legal representative for their child, they can decide what is best for their child with respect to safety concerns. The option to keep a child home from school when the parent considers the weather conditions to be excessively dangerous is always at the parents' discretion, and the school understands and respects the decision. However, if school is in session, the parent should notify the school that their child will be remaining at home on a "Parent-Requested Absence. The student will be counted as absent (excused) for the day.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PUBLIC SERVICES OR UTILITIES ARE DISRUPTED?**

Due to circumstances beyond our control schools may experience power outages or other emergencies, such as gas leaks, water service disruption, etc. Should events of this nature occur, District personnel will make every effort to provide for student and staff comfort and safety while the school continues to operate.

Occasionally, power outages make it impossible to maintain optimum conditions within the school, but the District does not want to send students home unsupervised or to a home that is also potentially without electricity, water, or parental supervision. If the Superintendent determines that school cannot continue for the duration of the day, the District will notify parents via the emergency calling system. We will also post an announcement on the District's website and our social media outlets.

### **A NOTE TO PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF**

Please know that we do our best to keep our students and staff safe and comfortable at all times. When it comes to the decision of whether schools remain open or closed, there is no perfect decision upon which everyone will agree. We hope this information helps everyone understand the process that we use to make the best possible decision for everyone connected with our schools.

### **DISTRICT WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION SOURCES**

Website: [www.chandler.k12.ok.us](http://www.chandler.k12.ok.us)

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