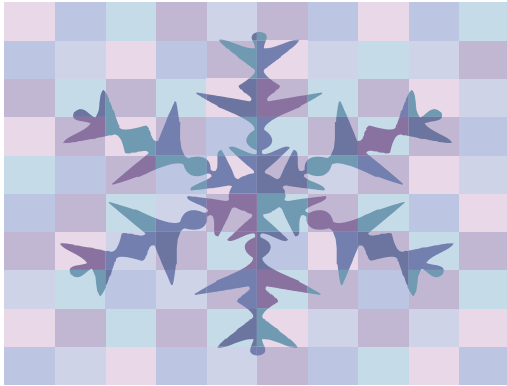


WINTER ADVISORY FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



How the Decision is Made to Close, Delay or Early Dismiss the Schools in Bad Weather

Considerations

The safety of the students is the primary consideration in the decision to close or to delay the opening of school. I must be concerned with the youngest students who ride school buses as well as the most capable of our driving teenagers.

In addition, the ability of the Public Works Department to plow all of the streets traveled by buses and children as well as the ability of our maintenance staff to clear each school site has to be factored into any decision regarding closings or delays. In some cases, public streets and/or school driveways are unable to be cleared until the following day. It is also important to remember that weather and street conditions can vary greatly within the boundaries of Weston.

Closing School

The actual process of making the decision to close school or to delay its opening begins with the constant monitoring of weather reports, usually beginning the night before. At 4:30 AM, the Facility Director, Dan Clarke, contacts me and updates me on road conditions. Next I call neighboring superintendents to ascertain road and weather conditions in his or her area. I must make a decision before 5:45 AM if it is possible to do so. Keep in mind that the decision is made on the best estimate of what will happen in the next four to twelve hours.

If weather, road and parking lot conditions are such that safety is a problem, school will be cancelled and the radio and television stations listed below are called immediately to make that announcement public. In addition, an Alert message is sent to all subscribers.

Delayed Opening

School opening will be delayed by two (2) hours if that extra time would seem to offer either better road and parking conditions or a substantial improvement in weather. A delay of more than two (2) hours is not possible because of the State Department of Education's determination of minimal day requirements. Different decisions for different schools are not possible because of the logistics of running the bus system over the contracted time.

Delayed Opening Times

Weston High School Opens at 9:45 AM
Weston Middle School Opens at 9:45 AM
Weston Intermediate School Opens at 10:30 AM
Hurlbutt Elementary School Opens at 10:30 AM

Closing Following Delayed Opening

Sometimes a delay may be followed by an announcement to close if weather conditions deteriorate rapidly. Families should continue to monitor weather reports after a delay is announced.

Early Dismissal

With many single parents and two wage earner families, it is only with the greatest reluctance that children are sent home early because of weather conditions. However, in the event that such an early release is absolutely necessary, each family should have an emergency plan that their children thoroughly understand. Please review your family's plan with your children and designated caretakers. Radio and TV stations and www.ctweather.com are immediately notified of any change in status, so it is important to monitor one of the listed media stations if weather conditions deteriorate. Also, an Alert message is sent to all subscribers.

Early Dismissal Times:

Weston High School 11:45 AM
Weston Middle School 11:45 AM
Weston Intermediate School 12:35 PM
Hurlbutt Elementary School 12:35 PM

How Parents Can Help

On mornings when the weather is bad, but school is still held, please let your children ride the bus. First of all, the heavy school buses are the safest vehicles your children could be in. Secondly, if parents drive, the school driveways become clogged with cars, slowing the drop off process and creating hazards for children exiting buses. For the same reasons, we urge parents not to pick up students at school when an emergency dismissal is called. Please let your children ride the bus.

Please listen to the radio and/or TV or check our status online, but do not call the schools, the Central Office, the Town Hall, the Police Department or the media. Lines need to be kept clear for emergency calls and for parent notification when necessary.

Finally, make sure your children understand what to do in the case of an early dismissal when you might not be home. Remember that it is the parent's responsibility to have a contingency plan for their child (children) should there be an early dismissal. This action plan should be reviewed periodically with your child.



How to Learn the Status of School Closings, Delays or Early Dismissals

Tune in to the following radio or television stations:

<u>Station</u>	<u>On Your Dial</u>	<u>Place</u>
WNLK/WEFX	1350AM/95.9FM	Norwalk
WICC/WEBE	108FM/60AM	Bridgeport
WEZN	FM99.9	Bridgeport
WREF	AM850	Ridgefield
Cablevision	Channel 12	Norwalk
Channel 2	CBS	New York
Channel 3	WFSB	Hartford
Channel 4	NBC	New York
Channel 6	NBC	West Hartford
Channel 8	WTNH	New Haven
Channel 30	NBC	West Hartford

WEBSITE: www.ctweather.com or use the link on the District Website: www.westonk12-ct.org

To register your email address with:

www.ctweather.com

Go to "e-notifications"

Go to "Schools"

Once the process of registering is completed, you will be notified by them of any cancellation or delay.

To sign up for Alert Message:

Use the link on the District Website.

www.westonk12-ct.org