

School Emergency Closings

School emergency closings could happen at any time of the year. Parents need to arrange plans with their children (and a neighbor, childcare, employer, etc.) on what is expected should an emergency closing occur. Decisions to close or dismiss school early are always a judgment call; however, we do use some general criteria in making such decisions. School procedures call for an emergency school closing announcement to be given over local radio and television media. Below are some of the criteria and examples of what would impact a decision to cancel school or to dismiss school early.

Weather Forecasts – Weather conditions and events are very unpredictable. We will never cancel school or dismiss school early solely on a weather forecast. Weather events must be occurring and deteriorating for school to be cancelled or for us to dismiss early.

Snow – Generally speaking snow is not a primary reason for closing school. As long as roads are not drifting shut, it's possible we would have school even with a sizable snowfall (e.g., greater than six inches).

Road Conditions – As referenced above, road conditions dictate many of our decisions. Due to the fact the district is widely spread out, we primarily consider rural road conditions.

Cold – We will look at wind chill and air temperatures (also road conditions) when making a decision relating to cold weather. Please remember that we do live in northern Illinois so below 0° weather is not uncommon. In most situations, if air temperature is 0° to -10° with a little or moderate wind chill we will likely have school. Air temperature of -20° or below (regardless of wind chill) will probably cause us to cancel school. If temperatures are between -11° to -19° and depending on wind chill, road conditions, and other current weather conditions, we may or may not have school.

When are decisions made? We are continually checking conditions from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. and will work to have a decision made as quickly as possible.

