

SCHOOL CLOSING and DELAYS

We understand that the decision to open or close schools in bad weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served - both academically and socially by being in school. But as always, our top priority is the safety of our students.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the police. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. Also, we must consider that some high school students drive to school.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- Whether or not precipitation is continuing.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- **Parking lot conditions.** Administrators talk to maintenance and custodial staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- **Temperature and wind chill.** Please remember that some of our students walk to school and some must wait outside for the bus.
- **Weather predictions.** We prefer not to make our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. However, this **is** sometimes unavoidable.
- **What other school districts are doing.** We also share information with other school districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the final decision, based on the aforementioned factors and recommendations from the transportation providers and the director of facilities.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

Please tune to the radio and television stations (listed below) for up-to-date information on school closings. You can also check our district Web site, www.hempsteadschools.org for information. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency, as this would unnecessarily tie up our phones as we try to assist others.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

The Superintendent makes the decision by 5:30 am, or earlier so we can notify radio and TV stations and post the decision on our Web site. If the Superintendent waits longer to announce a closing, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised.

WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Please note that even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision in the morning without endangering the students. Once we make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. If conditions get worse during the school

day, we may need to have an early dismissal, but we will give adequate notice to all parents and guardians first.

Although the Superintendent and staff do their absolute best during this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists, if you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend. Also, discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen.

When schools are closed due to inclement weather, all after school activities and evening programs will be cancelled.

We trust that this explanation helps everyone understand the process that our district staff uses to make the best possible decision for all in our district.

When schools are closed due to inclement weather or hazardous road conditions, or in the event of delayed openings, announcements will be made over the following stations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WMJC – KJOY 94.3 AM• WALK 97.5 AM• WINS 1010 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FIOS Channel 1• WCBS Channel 2• WNBC Channel 4• WYNW Channel 5• WABC Channel 7• New 12 Channel 12
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These stations will repeat announcements for several hours each morning. We suggest that you select one station, tune in early and stay tuned for development. Please do not call the stations or schools for information, it is best to tune in for news of closings and delays.