

# **Eau Claire Public Schools**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**



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**Superintendent:** Ann Marie Cluff

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Now that the winter season is upon us I want to take a few moments of your time to provide you with essential information on weather related school closings. In the event that adverse weather conditions make it necessary to cancel school, delay the beginning of school, or send students home early, the following information details the District's procedures.

### **STATE OF MICHIGAN SNOW DAY PROVISION**

The State of Michigan allows for 30-hours of school instructional time to be waived due to inclement weather or "*Act of God Days*". That equals about six school days (30-hours of loss of instruction) that the district can be closed without having to make up the instructional time lost.

### **HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?**

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

- ★ Information on road conditions from administrators, the Sheriff's Department, and from the Berrien County Road Department.
- ★ The amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- ★ Whether precipitation is continuing.
- ★ Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- ★ Temperature and wind chill (see the unsafe weather guidelines below).
- ★ Weather predictions. We prefer not to make our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But sometimes this is unavoidable.
- ★ What other school districts are doing. We also share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

### **UNSAFE WEATHER GUIDELINES**

- ★ The National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Warning when wind chills are -25 or colder.
- ★ The National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Advisory when wind chills are -15 or colder.
- ★ On days when the temperature and/or wind chill are below -20°F (20 below zero) schools will be closed.
- ★ On days when the temperature and/or wind chill are below 0°F: Students will not have recess outside

## WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As Superintendent of Eau Claire Public Schools, I am responsible for making the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from the Director of Transportation and the ECPS Administration team.

## HOW WILL THE STAKEHOLDERS BE NOTIFIED?

When it becomes necessary to close schools due to poor weather conditions, we will utilize several methods to notify stakeholders of school cancellations, delays, and early dismissals. ***Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency.*** Notifications and up-to-date information on school closings will be provided through the following venues:

- ★ *SchoolMessenger* phone calls and emails,
- ★ Announcements posted on Facebook
- ★ Through the local TV and radio stations (see the list below).

## WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

In order to notify our families, bus drivers, and staff as soon as possible of the decision to delay or close schools, our goal is to ensure that a decision is made no later than 6:00 am. However, every effort will be made to make the decision as early as possible.

## WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Although it seldom occurs, it also may be necessary to close school early due to weather. In the event of an early closure, every effort will be made to provide parents/guardians adequate notice in order to make arrangements for their children.

Lastly, although we will do our absolute best in this process, no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, 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. If school is open and you make the decision to keep your child home, please call the school office to excuse them from school.

Respectfully,

*Ann Marie Cluff*

Ann Marie Cluff  
Superintendent  
Eau Claire Public Schools



***Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow.***

**Eau Claire Public Schools**  
**Inclement Weather School Closing Information**

**Radio/TV Broadcasting**

Cancellation Notices with the following local radio and television stations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ News/Talk 94.9 WSJM</li> <li>★ WSJM Sports</li> <li>★ 98.3 The Coast</li> <li>★ ROCK 107 WIRX</li> <li>★ 97.5 Y-Country</li> <li>★ 103.7 COSY-FM</li> <li>★ Moody on the Market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ ABC57 News</li> <li>★ ABC57.COM</li> <li>★ CW25 and WMYS-T</li> <li>★ 953mnc.com</li> <li>★ MNC radio</li> <li>★ WSBT-22</li> <li>★ WNDU-TV</li> </ul>

**How cold is too cold to have school?**

Unfortunately, there is not a simple answer to this question. As noted in the attached chart, frostbite can occur on exposed skin in about 30 minutes at wind chills of -25F. At wind chills of -40F, frostbite can affect exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes.

- If the temperature is 0°F and the wind is blowing at 15 mph, the windchill is -19°F. At this windchill temperature, exposed skin can freeze in 30 minutes.

**What is the wind chill temperature?**

The windchill temperature is how cold people and animals feel when outside. Windchill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by wind and cold. As the wind increases, it draws heat from the body, driving down skin temperature and eventually the internal body temperature. Therefore, the wind makes it FEEL much colder.

