



Winter Weather: Delay, Closing and Early Dismissal Reminders

How the decision is made to Close, Delay or Early Dismiss the Schools in Bad Weather

Naturally, the primary consideration in the decision to close or to delay the opening of school is the safety of the students. And, as the students in the schools range from 5 to 18 years of age, I must be concerned with the youngest pupils 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 in any decision regarding closings or delays. In some cases, public roads and/or school driveways are unable to be cleared until the following day. It is also important to remember that weather and road conditions can vary greatly within the boundaries of Wilton.

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 a.m. the Wilton Police Department contacts me to report on conditions. After gathering the necessary information (schedule of clearing the roads, etc.) I participate in a conference call with area superintendents to ascertain road conditions in the surrounding areas. The decision to close must be made by 5:00 a.m. 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 closed and the School Messenger notification system put into effect. Status will be posted on the district website and reported to local television and radio stations as well.

Delayed Opening

This year the district will utilize the option of a 1-hour, 2-hour or 3-hour delay. Based on the timing of the storm, and/or road conditions the delayed opening options may improve and reduce the need to close school.

Closing Following a 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.

Early Dismissal

It is with the greatest reluctance that children are dismissed early because of weather conditions. However in the event that an early dismissal 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. A School Messenger notification will be sent and status posted on the district website.

Parent Information and Resources

- Parents should review their notification preferences in School Messenger and update as necessary.
- Review your emergency plans in the case of an early dismissal. Remember that it is the parent's responsibility to have a contingency plan for their child (children) should there be a weather related early dismissal.

Early Dismissal (weather related)

<i>School</i>	<i>Dismissal Time</i>
Wilton High School	10:30 a.m.
Middlebrook	10:30 a.m.
Cider Mill	11:30 a.m.
Miller-Driscoll	12:30 p.m.

Delayed Opening

<i>School</i>	<i>1-Hour Delay Start Time</i>	<i>2-Hour Delay Start Time</i>	<i>3-Hour Delay Start Time</i>
Wilton High School	9:20 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	11:20 a.m.
Middlebrook	9:20 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	11:20 a.m.
Cider Mill	8:40 a.m.	9:40 a.m.	10:40 a.m.
Miller-Driscoll	10:05 a.m.	11:05 a.m.	12:05 p.m.

Notifications and Media Postings

- School Messenger
- www.wiltonps.org
- Media Outlets:

<i>Television Stations</i>	<i>Radio Stations</i>
WNYW – TV: Channel 5 - FOX	WTIC-AM/WTIC-FM
NCBC 30/WVIT: Channel 30	WCBS: NewsRadio 880
WRNN – TV: Channel 56 or 90	WTNH-TV: Channel 8
WFSB – TV: Channel 3	WRCH-FM/WZMX-FM
WNBC – TV: Channel 4 New York	
News12 – Connecticut: Norwalk	
WABC-TV	