



Winter Weather Information 2019-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The following information is being provided to you as we prepare for another Minnesota winter.

Mankato Area Public Schools utilizes the services of two transportation carriers, serving 3,962 public and nonpublic school students daily. Many bus routes include transfer points and stops at several facilities which makes our student bus transportation system quite complex. The decision to alter our instructional day due to weather includes a number of variables, but the center of our decision-making is the safety of students and staff.

School closing and early dismissal notices will be provided on the following websites, radio and television stations. There will also be a recorded message on the **District HELP Line at 507-386-4777**.

- www.isd77.org
- katoinfo.com
- KTOE
- KDOG
- KXAC
- KYSM-AM and FM
- KATO
- KXLP
- mankatofreepress.com
- southernminnesotanews.com
- KEEZ
- KMSU
- KRBI
- KMKO
- KRRW
- mankatotimes.com
- keyc.com
- KEYC 12 - TV
- KSTP-TV
- KARE 11-TV
- WCCO Radio and TV
- FOX 9/MY29-TV

You can also obtain information through the following resources:

- Subscribe on Twitter @ISD77MAPS
- Follow on Facebook at: Mankato Area Public Schools
- Subscribe to receive email or text messages at www.isd77.org; click on the "News" button

If schools need to dismiss early, announcements will be made well before buses are scheduled to depart from schools. It takes approximately 1 1/2 hours for our transportation providers to prepare for an early departure. When early departures are called, please limit phone calls to your student's school, allowing school personnel to continue to work to ensure a safe and timely end to the instructional day.

The following guidelines may be helpful to parents/guardians:

- Given the severity of conditions, parents may wish to meet the bus at the bus stop.
- Families should have an alternate plan in the event buses are unable to return students to their homes.
- Students should always be appropriately dressed for the weather as emergencies may result in dangerous situations.
- Principals will excuse those students whose parents/guardians request to pick up their child(ren) early. Please do not park in bus loading zones or block bus entrances or exits, as the buses must move quickly.
- On inclement weather days when the District decides to have school, parents and guardians should make the final decision as to whether their child(ren) should attend school. If you do not send your child(ren), please call the school(s) to report the absence. A student who is not in school will be excused but marked as absent. Students will be expected to make up any missed school work.

Safety is the top priority for all of us, and the school district appreciates your support as we work together to navigate our winter months.

Sincerely,

Paul Peterson, Ed.D.
Superintendent