

ORLEANS SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

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The decision to close schools, have a delayed opening, or release early due to weather is a difficult one because of the impact on parents and families. Our priority will always be safety, and the decision to close Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union (OSSU) schools will be based on the ability for buses and cars to navigate roads and safely transport students throughout the supervisory union. Because OSSU covers a large geographic area, which includes many dirt roads and hills, we may experience more closures and/or delays than other nearby regions of the state. It is simply harder to navigate large school buses on winding back roads than on paved, main streets, leading to more days where we feel it is not safe to transport students.

In determining whether or not to close school, the superintendent will consult with school bus personnel, road crews, other regional superintendents, and weather bureaus. Timing is a large part of the equation and the goal is to make the decision as early as possible so that families have as much advance notice as possible.

There are several times when a two-hour delay may be appropriate: when the storm has ended and the road crews report that they need extra time to finish plowing, or when the forecast calls for significant warming, meaning ice on the roads will melt by later in the morning. In general, if a storm has not ended by early morning, a two-hour delay is not likely to be called.

School closings or delays are communicated first through local area radio and television stations (WCAX will have the most recent information, which can be found on their [website](#)). Additionally, parents and teachers will be notified of their school closings or delays using an automated phone & email communication system. Individual building administrators will decide whether or not to cancel after-school activities, and they will communicate this to their school communities.

Parents always have the ultimate right to keep a child home if they believe it is not safe for their child to travel to school.

Please remember that any cancelled day of school will be made up at the end of the school year.

If you have questions, please contact Adam Rosenberg, Superintendent, at 802-472-2901.

*Craftsbury Town School District ♦ Hazen Union School District ♦ Orleans Southwest Union Elementary School District
♦ Wolcott Town School District ♦ Stannard Town School District*