

Winter Weather School Closing Information 2018-19

The winter season will soon be upon us, and I wanted to update you all on how we will be handling school closing and delays for this year. I am providing an outline below of how the process works.

1. Prior to a “weather event” and early in the morning of an event, we gather information from a variety of sources:

We look at forecasts from a variety of sources well in advance.

Both prior to and on the morning of events, we receive consultation and advice from NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration); in fact, we are registered as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. We contract with Roger Hill to provide regular updates and consultation as well, as Roger can often supplement NOAA with specific localized information.

We communicate, as appropriate, with the road crews and/or police departments for both Barre Town and Barre City.

We communicate with other school superintendents in the region to coordinate closing/delay decisions when it makes sense, realizing localized conditions and other factors may necessitate different decisions for different SUs and districts. The information from other regional road crews is additional useful data we all consider in making our decisions.

2. Our goal is to have a decision made by 5:30am. This is not always possible, as there are a lot of things happening quickly.

Most often, we receive a recommendation and we follow it, as the weather experts get automatic input from many sources and have the expertise to perform the analysis. They consider what has happened, what is happening currently and what is most likely to happen as the day goes on. It is rare that our own information does not align with their recommendations.

If we do not have a recommendation by 5:30am, we typically wait a little longer. If we feel like we have information and circumstances that requires a different decision than the experts recommend, we review everything again carefully before making that decision.

3. Once a decision is made to delay or close, we communicate in the following ways:

- We initiate a “Call Em All” through the phone system
- We contact the media
- We send out an email to everyone
- We post on Facebook, Twitter, web pages, and phone greetings

- We contact the police and road crews
- We contact the Food and Bus service companies

The decision to delay or cancel is extremely important for everyone's safety. We take it very seriously. There is no guarantee that we can make the correct decision every time, but we do our absolute best. Please help us by being patient and understanding, and providing appropriate and constructive feedback.

Sincerely,
John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools
Barre Supervisory Union