



SCHOOL CLOSING AND LATE START

School Closings:

Palos 118 utilizes an urgent parent notification system to contact parents through home phones, cell phones, and by email. A test of the urgent parent notification system occurs at the beginning of each school year. Parents can update their contact information through the school office. In addition, closing information is provided to media outlets through the Emergency Closing Center at www.emergencyclosingcenter.com and can be found on the district website at www.palos118.org/district-information/school-closing.

Late Start of School:

Palos 118 has a one-hour late start option to provide an additional solution for poor weather situations. The late start would delay all school and bus operations by one hour. Students would report to their bus stops one hour later and schools would begin one hour later. The late-start schedule would operate as follows:

1. No before-school programs at any schools or South zero hour will be held;
2. All schools and Kindergarten would begin one hour later:
East and West would begin at 9:55 a.m.
South would begin at 9:15 a.m.
Kindergarten at East and West would begin at 10:15 a.m.
3. All schools would end at their normal time;
4. After-school activities would occur unless otherwise indicated;
5. All bus route pickups would be one hour later in the A.M. with same P.M. drop-off times;
6. A.M. Kindergarten would end at its normal time;
7. P.M. Kindergarten would occur at normal start and stop times;
8. If a late start is declared, the status would not change to a full closing except in extreme conditions. (The intent is to make a commitment to late start and stay with it so everyone can plan accordingly).
9. If there is a one-hour delay for inclement weather on late start Wednesdays, the late start time will be cancelled and the district will operate on the regular one-hour delay schedule.

The decision to institute a late start instead of closing school will be dependent on the forecast and conditions at decision making time. The late-start option is designed to give road snow removal operations additional time which would hopefully improve travel. Parents should always exercise personal judgment and place safety first when sending their child to school regardless of whether a normal or late start schedule occurs. Parents would be advised of a late start in the same manner as a closing of school. The late start option would permit the minimum attendance time for students and the school day would not have to be “made up” as a closed day.

Make up of Emergency Closing Days:

Palos 118 is required to make up days for emergency school closings. The Board has approved the option of using Casimir Pulaski Day, President’s Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day as potential make up days. If these holidays are used as make up days, they will be used in that order. The use of these school holidays as make up days was approved by the Board to minimize the possibility of having to extend the end of the school year. If all three scheduled holidays are used as make up days, any additional make up days will be added to the end of the school year.