

During school hours:

School sites with students will NOT be open to the public during school day hours. If severe weather threatens, parents may choose to check their students out early from school. Students WILL be listed with an absence for the time missed as required by State law; there will be no penalty, however, from the school.

Weather and conditions are monitored very closely by administration during severe weather. Once weather conditions become “dangerous”, it will be determined by local administration whether to hold students rather than transport or whether to move students and staff into safe rooms and/or secure areas of the building. If students and staff are moved into safe rooms and/or secure areas, the site principal will determine at what point the building then goes into “tornado lockdown.” At the point of “tornado lockdown”, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building and school phones will not be answered because staff will have moved into safe rooms/areas as well.

The automated call system will be used to keep parents/guardians advised of the situation and the district’s status of release for the day. Parents/guardians should keep the district aware of the most current phone numbers to be used in the district’s call system.

Outside of school hours:

The Western Heights School District is fortunate, due to the passage of bond issues by the patrons of the District, to have secure buildings, safe rooms or access to safe rooms at all school sites in the district. Because of the community support of the school district, it is the desire of the Board of Education to open to the public certain district sites when imminent, dangerous weather prevails. Annually, the district will determine which sites will be used for public access and make those available to the public with the following guidelines/restrictions:

- Doors at the designated sites will ONLY be opened when officials have determined “tornado precautions must be taken.” Sites are NOT open for tornado “watch” or “warning” status. If sirens are sounded, the sites will be opened.
- NO animals (except designated service animals), even if crated, will be allowed inside the school sites. A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. All animals should be placed in the safest areas possible at patrons’ homes—the school sites are for HUMAN access only, with the exception of service animals.
- The public will be asked to remain in designated areas as decisions are made as to whether or not to move to safe rooms.
- Anyone “off limits” in the building, will be required to leave. Anyone displaying disorderly conduct or inappropriate behavior will be required to leave.

- The district assumes no liability or responsibility for loss, accidents or injuries to those offered public access to the buildings during weather conditions requiring shelter.

Adopted: 06-27-2013

Revised: 12-08-2014

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