



## **Making Weather-Related School Closure Decisions**

### **PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Needless to say, Park City is more accustomed to snow than some of our friends in other parts of the country. However, there are times when we are hit by a sizeable storm, even by our standards. While snowstorms do present obstacles, **Park City School District aims to keep schools open whenever possible.**

#### **How We Make the Decision**

Administrators monitor the National Weather Service for storm warnings and closely monitor a storm's status throughout the night. Snowplows are dispatched and begin plowing school parking lots as soon as it is safe to do so. Snowplow drivers report road conditions and district utility services staff monitor buildings for weather-related conditions, such as power outages. Additionally, the district receives reports from local law enforcement and city and county officials.

Using that information, the Superintendent determines whether there will be a school closure. This decision is made by 5:30 a.m. and parents are notified by 6 a.m. if schools are closed. No notification means schools are open.

#### **Why Do We Remain Open**

Why do we keep schools open during a snowstorm?

Prior to and during a snowstorm, we receive up-to-date reports on the weather, road conditions, transportation capability, and the status of our buildings. We will keep schools open if these reports indicate we can safely transport children, and open and operate our buildings.

Like any public service, parents count on our schools to remain open. Our role in the community goes beyond providing educational services to nearly 4,500 students:

- Many of our students rely on their neighborhood school for breakfast and lunch (approximately 25%). These meals are not simply convenient; they provide nutritional needs for children who may otherwise go without them.
- Some of our students would remain home alone without supervision if their school had an unscheduled closure. Many families don't have the luxury of adjusting work schedules on short notice.
- A functioning school building provides warmth and safety in addition to classroom instruction.

### **Late Start or Closure**

What if reports indicate significant difficulties?

If reports show substantial challenges, individual schools may decide to implement a late start to resolve the situation. The emergency late start schedule still counts as a full day of instruction, thus no make-up day in the spring is needed.

### **Notification**

Parents will be notified via an email and text from PCSD should a delayed start or a full closure be implemented. A delayed start is typically 2 hours late - so a student would arrive at their bus stop exactly 2 hours from the time they normally leave home - permitting time for additional snow clearing. Please ensure your contact information listed in Powerschool is accurate since that is where we take our notification information. The district's website will also include emergency closure information. No announcement or notification, means schools are open.

### **Parents Make the Ultimate Call**

We trust parents to make the ultimate call when it comes to their child's safety. Not all streets are plowed at the same time, and snow totals may differ from region to region. If you do not think it is safe to send or take your student to school during a weather incident, please keep them home. School officials will be understanding regarding tardiness and absences during inclement winter weather.