

Albany Area Schools

Inclement Weather School Closing Procedures

When inclement weather or other emergency situations occur, it may be necessary for Albany Area Schools to cancel or close schools early. In the event of inclement weather, the Superintendent will decide to close school based on several factors, including student safety, bus transportation, road conditions, and wind chill temperature. Albany Area Schools reviews information from emergency management, meteorologists, and state highway administrators, and school personnel inspect the conditions of roads throughout the District.

Weather Related School Closure

The decision to cancel school is taken very seriously. School closure decisions are made for the entire District, not specific areas, based on District-wide conditions and weather forecasts to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and residents.

When possible, the decision to close school is made the night before; however, inclement weather is often unpredictable, and a decision may be made in the morning. The District makes every attempt to inform families of a school closing by 5:30 am. In the event there is a transition from a 2-hour late start to an E-Learning Day, our goal is to communicate that to all families by 6:30 am.

E-Learning Days

E-Learning days are intended to provide an opportunity for teaching and learning to continue when school cancellations are necessary due to inclement weather. Our goal is always to have our students in our buildings, but E-Learning provides a viable option when our roads create challenges in transporting students on our buses. E-Learning days also reduce the chance that we will have to add days back onto our calendar at the end of the school year. When severe weather occurs and Albany Area Schools determines that travel to schools and buildings is unsafe, families will be notified that students should remain at home and continue instruction via E-Learning.

Early Dismissal

The District may dismiss early when winter weather arrives quickly and unexpectedly during the school day. It is extremely important for the safety of your children that all students have an Emergency Closing Plan on file in Infinite Campus. In the event of an early dismissal, we ask that parents confirm with their children their plan for after school.

Additional Information

- If a family does not feel comfortable sending their student(s) to school due to inclement weather, the absence will be excused.
- If school is closed, a decision regarding after school activities will be made at the discretion of administration based on conditions at the time of the scheduled event(s).
- If a bus driver deems a road to be unsafe or unpassable, communication will be made to the families impacted.

Communicating School Closures

Timely communication with our District families is always a priority, but especially important in emergency school closing or early dismissal situations. If Albany Area Schools are forced to close or dismiss early due to inclement weather or other factors (e.g., power outage, water main break) families will be notified in the following ways:

District Phone Call/Text/Email

Albany Area Schools utilizes [Infinite Campus](#) for all mass notifications, which allows school administrators to notify all families and staff by phone, text, and email. It is imperative that your contact information is up to date with the school to ensure you receive timely notification. To update your contact information, log into Infinite Campus or contact your child's school.

Local Media

When inclement weather causes the District to cancel school or dismiss classes early, please check the following television and radio stations for school closing information:

- [KSTP - TV Channel 5](#)
- [KARE 11 - TV Channel 11](#)
- [KASM Radio - 1150 AM](#)
- [WJON Radio - 1240 AM](#)
- [Leighton Broadcasting Stations](#)

Website

The [District website](#) will be updated with a pop-up alert with emergency school closing information.

Social Media

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for weather-related closure information.