



SOUTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT *WEATHER ADVISORY*



September 2023

The Southington Public School District participates in a regional collaborative effort to review weather-related issues, but any decision to delay or close school will be made based on safety concerns specific to Southington.

A schedule of all dismissal times is posted on the school website and listed below.

	REGULAR DAY	EARLY DISMISSAL		DELAYED OPENING	
		Standard (2 hour)	Emergency (3 hour)	Standard (2 hour)	Extended (3 hour)
High Schools		Lunch Served	No Lunch Served	Breakfast Served	No Breakfast
SHS	7:37 am-2:15 pm	7:37 am-12:15 pm	7:37 am-11:15 am	9:37 am-2:15 pm	10:37 am-2:15 pm
KSA	7:40 am-1:10 pm	7:40 am-11:50 am	7:40 am-10:50 am	9:40 am-1:10 pm	10:40 am-1:10 pm
Middle Schools		Lunch Served	No Lunch Served	Breakfast Served	No Breakfast
DePaolo & Kennedy	8:05 am-2:40 pm	8:05 am-12:45 pm	8:05 am-11:45 am	10:05 am-2:40 pm	11:05 am-2:40 pm
Early Elem. Schools		Lunch Served	Lunch Served or Grab & Go	Breakfast Served	No Breakfast
Flanders Hatton Oshana South End Thalberg	8:35 am-3:05 pm	8:35 am-1:10 pm	8:35 am-12:10 pm	10:35 am-3:05 pm	11:35 am-3:05 pm
Late Elem. Schools		Lunch Served	Lunch Served or Grab & Go	Breakfast Served	No Breakfast
Derynoski Kelley Strong	8:55 am-3:25 pm	8:55 am-1:30 pm	8:55 am-12:30 pm	10:55 am-3:25 pm	11:55 am-3:25 pm
Preschool AM Hatton PM	8:35 am-11:15 am 12:25 pm-3:05 pm	8:35 am-10:25 pm 11:20 am-1:10 pm	8:35am-10:25 am Canceled	Canceled 12:25pm-3:05 pm	Canceled 12:25 pm-3:05 pm
Preschool AM Strong PM	9:05 am-11:45 am 12:55 pm-3:35 pm	9:05 am-10:50 am 11:45 am-1:30 pm	9:05 am-10:50 am Canceled	Canceled 12:55 pm-3:35 pm	Canceled 12:55 pm-3:35 pm

- **It is crucial that your PowerSchool contact information is accurate and up to date.** You can reach out to your school's main office or submit requests for changes through ParentSquare. Changes submitted through ParentSquare will be reviewed by the office staff, then updated in PowerSchool.
- A standard delayed opening for all schools will be two (2) hours unless otherwise noted.
- An alternative three (3) hour extended delay schedule is for those rare instances when it is known that a bit more time in the morning will allow school to convene.

- Decisions to close or delay the opening of school are usually made by 5:00 a.m. based upon what is forecast to happen in the following two to twelve hours. Please stay tuned when a delay has been announced since it might turn into a cancellation if weather conditions do not improve.
- All families, faculty and staff will be notified immediately via the district notification system, and local media outlets will be notified simultaneously.
- Most local media outlets offer a free text message service for these events, and I encourage families to take advantage of these subscriptions. The notice of delay, cancellation or early dismissal will also be posted on the school district's website.
- Early dismissals not already designated as such on the BOE approved school calendar are avoided when possible. However, should there be a need, the district will follow the standard early release timing outlined above (2 hours early).
- If it is necessary to implement an **Emergency Early Dismissal** (3 hours early) an email and phone call will be issued by 10:30 a.m. using the district notification system. This is different than the typical Planned Early Dismissal. **The Emergency Early Dismissal will only be used when weather conditions have deteriorated so rapidly that a later dismissal may jeopardize student safety.** Please have a back-up plan in place and make sure that students understand where they should go in the event of an Early Dismissal from school. Child-care arrangements at home or on the same bus route should be made in anticipation of both an Early Dismissal or Emergency Early Dismissal since it will be impossible for the school staff to personally contact each parent.

When school is cancelled, unless otherwise indicated, all scheduled activities and meetings will be cancelled. If an Emergency Early Dismissal is implemented, all after-school and evening activities and meetings will be cancelled. The school buildings will be closed as soon as all YMCA after school students are picked up. For the safety of the children and staff, the YMCA has asked that families pick up children as soon as possible.

Making the decision to delay, dismiss early, or close schools on a particular day is one of the most difficult facets of my job. Though I consult with the Southington Police Department, Town Public Works officials, New Britain Transportation, a professional meteorologist, and multiple superintendents from surrounding districts, the final call remains with me. Judgement calls are never easy and always subject to debate. Over the years, I have received criticism, sometimes less than civil phone calls and emails, as well as reassuring and supportive communication.

Please know I never take these decisions lightly and am always available to discuss why a decision was made if you should have questions. Wishing everyone a wonderful start to our new school year.

Respectfully,



Steve Madancy