



Making Weather-Related School Closure Decisions

PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Park City is more accustomed to snow than other parts of the country. While snowstorms do present obstacles, Park City School District (PCSD) aims to keep schools open whenever possible.

How the Decision is Made

Administrators monitor the National Weather Service for storm warnings and closely monitor a storm's status throughout the night. District 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 this information, the Superintendent or designee determines whether there will be a school closure. This decision to close schools is made by 6 a.m., or earlier when possible. No notification means schools are open.

Why Do Schools Remain Open?

Prior to and during a snowstorm, the district receives up-to-date reports on the weather, road conditions, transportation capability, and the status of buildings. Schools will remain open if these reports indicate that the district can safely transport children, and open and operate the buildings.

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

- Many PCSD 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 PCSD 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, PCSD may decide to implement a 2-hour 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.

If it appears a late start schedule will not alleviate conditions, the district will be closed. An emergency closure make-up day is included in the calendar. *Please note: Delayed starts on severe weather days are the most difficult on Fridays when schools have shortened days.*

Notification

Parents will be notified via email and text from PCSD should a delayed start or a full closure be implemented. Please ensure your contact information listed in Powerschool is accurate since that is where the district retrieves your notification information. The district website will also include emergency closure information. No announcement or notification means schools are open.

Parents Make the Ultimate Call

PCSD trusts 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.