



# Weekly Hot News

News and events highlights for the Hillsboro School District  
For more details and additional information, please visit [www.hsd.k12.or.us](http://www.hsd.k12.or.us)



Week of November 19, 2012

Because we only have two days of school this week—Monday and Tuesday—we gave the schools a week off from *Hot News* entries. But we do have some district-level news to share with you, so please read on!

## SUPERINTENDENT LISTENING SESSION VIA WEBINAR IS 11/29, NOON-1PM

We are just a week and a half away from our first web-based Superintendent Listening Session! We have never done this before so it's a little scary, but we're committed to doing our very best so you'll have a worthwhile and informative experience!

A link to the webinar, along with instructions, will be posted on our website. Access to the site will be granted approximately 30 minutes prior to the session to give those who have never attended a WebEx event time to install the plug-in and get registered.

People who would like to submit questions to Superintendent Scott before the session are welcome and encouraged to e-mail them to Communications Director Beth Graser at [graserbe@hsd.k12.or.us](mailto:graserbe@hsd.k12.or.us).

We will attempt to address all topics of high interest during the webinar; those we cannot get to or that may not be appropriate for the medium will be responded to either individually or in the event's write-up.

## RESOURCES AND PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the approach of the holiday season and the promise of time off from school, also comes the unknown of when a bad weather system might move through our area.

Because the Hillsboro School District encompasses such a broad area—more than 200 square miles to be exact!—we go on alert when the forecast calls for snow, ice, or freezing rain below 1,500 feet.

Most days, we can hold school on time, as scheduled, simply by having our school buses drive snow routes as needed in the higher elevations. Other times, we may need to delay the start of school by two hours to allow the weather situation to improve, or we may need to close school altogether because conditions are too

unpredictable or unsafe to risk student travel. On still other occasions, the weather may be fine in the morning, but get progressively worse toward the afternoon, in which case we may need to send students home early and/or cancel afternoon and evening activities.

There are several ways parents can be prepared for and alerted to changes in the normal school routine.

*Before bad weather hits:*

- **Familiarize yourself with your Snow Zone and the snow route stops for your busing area.** If your student rides the bus to and/or from school, visit our website at [www.hsd.k12.or.us](http://www.hsd.k12.or.us) and click the [Inclement Weather](#) button on the homepage. From there, you can click on your school's name and be taken to a page that lists your area's Snow Zone number, as well as the AM and PM snow route stops in your zone. *If your school is not listed, the buses in your area do not have snow route stops that are different from normal stops.* Walk or drive to the snow route stop with your child to familiarize them with the stop, but make sure they know to *only* go there if they are told their bus will run on a snow route on a particular day.
- **Sign up for alerts through FlashAlert or Twitter.** FlashAlert is the system most local school districts use to inform the media about buses being on snow routes, school delays, and school closures. You can subscribe up to three e-mail and/or cell text message addresses to receive these alerts by visiting [www.flashalert.net](http://www.flashalert.net). You can also install the free FlashAlert Messenger app on your tablet or smart phone by going to Google Play or the iTunes app store. In addition, you can follow the Hillsboro School District on Twitter by

clicking the link from FlashAlert, or by clicking the [Twitter](#) icon on our website. Note that cell text messages generated by the FlashAlert system may be delayed on days with extreme weather conditions as multiple schools and other public agencies are sending messages through the system at the same time and the volume can overwhelm cell phone providers.

*When bad weather hits:*

- **Visit our website.** Barring catastrophic Internet failure, information will always be posted at the top of our website by 5:45 a.m. on inclement weather days.
- **Check your e-mail.** Information will also be sent out to our *Hot News* e-mail distribution lists on delay or closure days (not snow route days).
- **Watch or listen to the news.** TV news stations set up a "crawl" at the bottom of their broadcast to list information and local radio stations will read announcements on inclement weather days.

Please note that the Hillsboro School District has made a change to past practice as it relates to Academic Seminar days (Wednesdays). Previously, there has been no option of a 2-hour delay on Wednesdays, as these days were already 30 minutes short for the Academic Seminar. Now, if the District determines that a 2-hour delay would suffice for making travel to school a reasonably safe option on a Wednesday, **the day will revert to a regular schedule and be altered accordingly.** This means all schools would start two hours later than their normal start time, and all schools would end at their normal end time. Morning kindergarten would be canceled, and afternoon kindergarten would be on its normal schedule. To see these exact times, please visit the school pages on our website and review the School Schedule information.