



WINTER



WEATHER PROCEDURES

Highlights of the WPS emergency weather safety procedures are noted here. For greater detail, visit the district’s website at www.usd259.org/weather.

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

The Wichita Public Schools does not typically make announcements that school is in session during winter weather events, only when school or activities are cancelled. If there is no announcement, then school is in session.

During bad weather, parents will be kept informed through several channels:

- **ParentLink** – phone, e-mail, text and mobile app notification
- District website – www.usd259.org
- District social media – **Twitter (@wichitausd259)**, **Facebook (/wichitapublicschools)** and **Spanish Facebook (/escuelaspublicasdewichitausd259)**
- WPS **mobile app** (for iPhone or Android) and follow district notifications
- Local media

PARENTS:

To receive emergency notifications, make sure your contact information is updated in **ParentVUE** by going online or contacting your child’s school.

If you have questions about winter weather procedures or shelter locations at your child’s school, please visit with your principal.

CLOSING SCHOOL

The decision to close schools is based on a number of variables including:

- Actual and projected snowfall and icing
- Ability of the bus fleet to transport students
- Assessment of city street and road conditions
- Status of power and heat to buildings

If winter weather conditions are of such a nature that the overall safety of students would be greatly jeopardized, **a decision to cancel school will be made no later than 4:30 a.m. on the morning of a school day.** Based on conditions, the district may elect to make the decision the night before.

On days when school is in session but conditions deteriorate during the day, the district’s weather team will meet in the afternoon to decide the status of after school and evening activities.

If a winter weather event develops while school is in session, early dismissal would only occur during the most extreme conditions.

OUTDOOR PLAY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If bitterly cold winter weather or extreme heat conditions are present during the school day, district weather officials refer to the National Weather Service’s Wind-Chill Factor and Heat Index resource located at www.usd259.org/weather and advise building principals on the appropriateness of spending time outdoors for recess or physical education activities.

