



# ***Kankakee Valley School Corporation***

12021 N 550 W

PO Box 278

Wheatfield, Indiana 46392-0278

## *Mission statement:*

*Our mission is to guide students to become informed, engaged citizens, and curious, lifelong learners.*

Dear Parents, Patrons, and Staff:

The following guidelines are intended to aid you in your daily decisions to send your children to school. As the school, we check road and weather conditions many times during the day, or before events. It is impossible to determine exactly what weather conditions are going to be. We do our best to predict, but the only way you really know how bad the weather will be is after the fact. In reality, you make the decision every day as to whether your child will attend school or not. Here are some basic beliefs and guidelines for you to consider. We will make every effort to only have school if the weather is appropriate.

We do believe that School Bus Transportation is the safest way to get to school. Our drivers are very careful, and they take the time necessary to get the children to school safely. All buses are equipped with radios, so we are in constant contact in the event of an emergency.

If you are going to allow your son or daughter to drive to school, please make sure that they are aware of the road conditions. Normally the best route to school is to try to get to a major road or highway. These usually get the best treatment. Sit down with your child and plan a longer route if necessary. We would rather have them take a little extra time and be safe rather than just trying to get to school in the fastest way.

Respectfully,

Don Street  
Superintendent

Rhonda Yates  
Director of Transportation

## **GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

### **Beliefs**

- Weather conditions are both variable and extreme in Indiana.
- Concrete rules do not exist for making decisions regarding variable and extreme weather, but these guidelines will serve as a reference for the Kankakee Valley School Corporation (KVSC).
- KVSC believes the public expects schools to be open and to provide education, supervision, and other services (including meals) to its students.
- KVSC believes all parents are committed to keeping children safe and these parents will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending the children to school.
- KVSC recognizes that the first and foremost a parental decision to determine if a child should attend school on inclement weather days.
- KVSC respects a parent's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open, or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.

### **Communication**

- On a normal school day, it will be announced no later than 5:45 AM if we are delaying and/or closing.
- Following a delay, it will be announced no later than 7:45 AM if we are closing.
- Our schools are equipped with a phone messaging device. In the event of an early dismissal, we will send out a call to the phone number or text message you have designated. Please also update the school with an accurate email account. If you want accurate information please contact the school or listen to our officially designated points of contact.
- Currently our weather-related announcements are broadcast on the following formats:

Radio: WLQI 97.7 FM, WRIN 1560 AM, Indiana 105.5 FM, and Z 107.1 FM

Social Media: Facebook Twitter

Website: [www.kv.k12.in.us](http://www.kv.k12.in.us)

Phone Messaging Device: Call, text, and email

***Home of the Kougars***

## VARIABLES FOR DELAYING OR CLOSING SCHOOL

### **Freezing Rain / Sleet**

The most unpredictable weather variable is freezing rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature sensitive and fast-occurring. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet is predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions.

### **Snowfall**

Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Meteorologists generally give a 2-inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because of the variation in actual snowfall, when compared to predicted snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will generally be made in the morning.

### **Extreme Snowfall**

When the snow has accumulated to a significant level or is at such a level with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening. A significant level is one in which local authorities have indicated it is unlikely roads will be passable by the following morning.

### **Extreme Cold**

Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. KVSC uses the hourly temperature predictions for its zip codes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([noaa.gov](http://noaa.gov)). In addition, KVSC uses the Wind Chill Chart from the NOAA and the National Weather Service showing when frostbite becomes a concern if bare skin is exposed to frigid temperatures for varying amounts of time. If the air temperature is predicted by NOAA to be -10 degrees or below with calm wind (the starting point for severe wind chill concerns), the school will consider a delay for the start of school. If the air temperature is predicted to **remain** at -10 degrees or below at 9:00 AM, with calm wind, the school will consider closing. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, including the evening before.

### **Extreme Wind Chill**

Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. While NOAA observations and predictions are based upon the open conditions of the Valparaiso Porter County Municipal Airport, these conditions can vary from actual weather in Kankakee Valley School Corporation. Local observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing schools. If wind chill is predicted by NOAA to be at -15 degrees or below and if local wind conditions are predicted to mirror the airport wind conditions the school will consider a delay for the start of school. If the wind chill is predicted to **remain** at -15 degrees or below at 9:30 AM, the school will consider closing. The variability of wind speed will likely cause this decision to be made in the morning.

### **Fog**

From time to time we will experience isolated or blanket fog. In the event of predictable fog, we will follow the same guidelines that we do for Snow or Freezing Rain. Fog can be isolated, so you may not experience it in your area, but it may be present in the school district. If we have areas of fog, we may delay or cancel. A rule of thumb for fog is that you can see at least 3/10ths of a mile.

### **Flooding**

In the past, we have had large areas of flooding. Much of our school corporation is agricultural in nature. If we find that roads are impassible, we will typically try to re-route into areas that they are not. In extreme cases, we may decide to delay or close school.

### **Ice Conditions**

Jasper County has limited resources to deal with the miles of roads that we have in the County. Typically, we have many roads that are gravel, and they receive no outside treatment other than a snow plow. Our road conditions will deteriorate in freezing rain or melting/refreezing. For the most part, the roads are not salted or sanded. If you live in these areas, you know to take extra time or avoid those roads that may have large quantities of ice on them.