

Dear Parents, Patrons, and Staff:

I am providing these guidelines to assist you in making decisions regarding sending your children to school during inclement weather. As a school, we monitor road and weather conditions before the start of the school day, frequently throughout the day, and before after-school events. As Superintendent, I often travel state and county highways to ascertain road conditions, review weather reports and forecasts, and communicate with other area school officials to make informed decisions. Ultimately, the decision to send your child to school is yours, and we respect that. Below are some beliefs and guidelines to help you in your decision-making process. We will make every effort to ensure that school is in session only when weather conditions are appropriate.

We firmly believe that school bus transportation is the safest way for students to travel to and from school. Our bus drivers are highly skilled and take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all students. Additionally, all buses are equipped with radios and GPS, allowing us to maintain constant communication in case of emergencies and to know the buses' location. We make tireless efforts to ensure students are routed and accurate rosters of students assigned to the school buses are available.

If you allow your son or daughter to drive to school, please ensure they are fully aware of the road conditions. Please encourage them to prioritize safety over speed. The safest route to school often involves taking major roads or highways, as these are typically treated and cleared first. Sit down with your child to plan a longer, safer route if needed. Safety should always take precedence over arriving quickly.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jim Hanna

Superintendent

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

- Weather conditions in Indiana are highly variable and can be extreme.
- Concrete rules do not exist for making decisions regarding variable and extreme weather; however, these guidelines serve as a reference for Rossville Consolidated School District (RCSD).
- RCSD believes the public expects schools to remain open and provide their students with education, supervision, and other services (including meals).

- RCSD believes parents are committed to their children's safety and will dress them appropriately for the weather when sending them to school.
- RCSD recognizes that it is ultimately a parental decision to determine if a child should attend school during inclement weather.
- RCSD respects a parent's decision regarding their child's attendance on days with severe weather. If school is open or delayed due to inclement weather, and parents decide to keep their child at home, the school will respect that decision. Parents are expected to inform the school of their choice, and the student will be excused and given the opportunity to complete any missed work.

Communication

- On a normal school day, any delay or closure will be announced no later than 6:15 AM.
- If there is a delay and subsequent closure, the closure will be announced no later than 8:15 AM.
- Our schools use ParentSquare to notify families in the event of delays, cancellations, and early dismissals. A text, email, or call will be sent to the contact information you provided through PowerSchool. It is important to double-check PowerSchool to make sure the contact information is correct. We also post the announcement to several different television and radio stations.

Weather-Related Announcements:

The school's primary method for communicating weather-related updates is through ParentSquare. However, announcements will also be shared via various media outlets. We recommend checking multiple sources or visiting the district website at www.rcsd.k12.in.us to confirm the most accurate and up-to-date information. The media outlets include: **RADIO:** K-105, B 102.9, 101.7 The Hammer, 93.5 KHY, WASK 98.7, & 1450 AM, WILO-FM 99.7 & 1570 AM, WWKI-FM 100.5, Shine 99, WBAA-FM 101.3 & 920 AM **TELEVISION:** WISH-TV 8, WLFI-TV 18, WRTV-TV 6, WTHR-TV 13, INDY-TV 23, & WXIN-TV 59

VARIABLES FOR DELAYING OR CLOSING SCHOOL

Freezing Rain / Sleet

Freezing rain and sleet are highly unpredictable weather conditions and are highly sensitive to temperature. The conditions can occur quickly with little warning. When freezing rain or sleet is forecasted, the decision regarding school delays or closures is generally postponed until the latest possible time to monitor the most current and localized conditions. Typically, this decision is made in the morning.

Snowfall

Snowfall is typically more predictable than freezing rain or sleet when determining school cancellations or delays. Meteorologists often provide a range for expected snow accumulation, and due to the variability between predicted and actual snowfall, decisions regarding school status are generally delayed until there is sufficient evidence of the need for action. In most cases, such decisions are made in the early morning to ensure accuracy. However, factors such as blowing and drifting snow can significantly impact road conditions and may alter when the decision is made. The safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority.

Extreme Snowfall

When snow accumulation reaches a significant level or additional snowfall is predicted to likely create hazardous conditions, a decision regarding school operations may be made the evening before. A significant level is defined as one where local authorities have indicated that streets are unlikely to be passable by the following morning. Additionally, consideration will be given to the potential impact of blowing and drifting snow, which may further impede safe travel.

Extreme Cold

Temperature predictions have become increasingly accurate. Rossville Schools relies on hourly temperature forecasts for its zip codes provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at noaa.gov. Additionally, Rossville Schools uses the Wind Chill Chart from NOAA and the National Weather Service to assess the risk of frostbite, which can occur when bare skin is exposed to extreme cold for varying durations.

If NOAA predicts an air temperature of -10°F or below, with calm wind—the threshold for severe wind chill concerns—the school will consider delaying the start of classes. Should the air temperature remain at -10°F or below at 9:00 AM, with calm wind, the school will evaluate the need to close for the day.

Decisions will be made as early as possible, including the evening prior, to provide adequate notice to families and staff.

Extreme Wind Chill

Wind chill predictions are less accurate than temperature forecasts due to the variability of wind speed by time and location. We use NOAA's Hourly Weather Forecast Graph for Rossville to look at potential wind chill projections for the Rossville area. These conditions may change throughout the day and may differ with local weather readings. As a result, local observations of wind speed will be considered when deciding to delay or close school.

If NOAA predicts a wind chill of -15°F or below and local wind conditions are expected to align with those at the airport, the school will consider delaying the start of the school day. If the wind chill is forecasted to remain at -15°F or below at 8:30 AM, the school will evaluate the need to close for the day.

Due to the variability of wind speeds, these decisions will most likely be made in the early morning to ensure the most accurate assessment of conditions.

Fog

Occasionally, we may encounter isolated or widespread fog. In such cases, we will follow the same guidelines used for snow or freezing rain. Fog can be localized, meaning it may not be present in your immediate area but could still impact other parts of the county. We will consider delaying or canceling school if significant fog is reported in certain areas.

As a general guideline, visibility should be at least 1/4th of a mile for safe travel. School delays or cancellations may be necessary if visibility falls below this threshold.

Flooding

There have been limited times that flooding has occurred in our school corporation. If roads become impassable due to flooding, we will make efforts to reroute transportation through accessible areas. In extreme cases, a school delay or closure may be necessary.

If flooding occurs after school is in session, students will be relocated to a designated safe area. Depending on the severity of the flooding, the school may be closed, and students will be sent home as soon as it is safe to do so.

Ice Conditions

Rossville Schools is mindful of the challenges posed by road conditions during inclement weather, particularly during icing conditions. Many roads in our district, especially those in rural areas, may not be treated with salt or sand, and they can become hazardous quickly. Due to ice buildup, these untreated roads are often difficult to navigate, even when paved.

If you live in areas with untreated or icy roads, we advise taking extra time for travel and exercising caution, especially on roads where ice may accumulate in large quantities. We encourage families to stay informed about weather conditions and prioritize safety.