

Pendleton County Schools

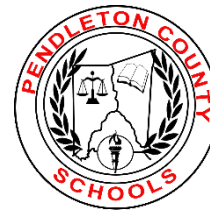
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HOW DOES COLD WEATHER AFFECT SCHOOL BEING DELAYED OR CLOSED?

During the winter months several factors come into play that could delay the start of school or cause school to be closed altogether. One such factor is the apparent temperature or “feels like temperature” which is determined by air temperature, humidity, and air speed on a given day. On particularly cold mornings we continuously monitor the National Weather Service and closely monitor the weather conditions. Currently, there are three possible scenarios that come from the National Weather Service regarding cold weather:

1. Cold Weather Advisory
2. Extreme Cold Watch
3. Extreme Cold Warning

The National Weather Service in Wilmington OH (criteria determined by local office) defines the three as follows:

Cold Weather Advisory: Air temperatures OR wind chill values at or below -5 to -14 degrees.

Extreme Cold Watch: Issued in advance of event, resolved to a warning or advisory based on the threshold criteria.

Extreme Cold Warning: Air temperatures OR wind chill values at or below -15 degrees.

When the National Weather Service issues an **Extreme Cold Warning** for Pendleton County for the time the school day begins, we will make a decision to close schools. It is quite likely we will make this type of decision on the morning of the day in question.

If there is a **Cold Weather Advisory** for the county, schools will likely be open unless there are operational problems with the bus fleet or mechanical problems in the school buildings. Buildings and the bus fleet are assessed in the morning prior to school by 6:00 AM.

As a parent, if you determine that the weather conditions are too dangerous for your child to be out, we respect your decision. If this occurs on a day in which Pendleton County is under a **Cold Weather Advisory**, please send a written note to your child’s school to request an excused absence for the day. Please make sure you contact the attendance office at your child’s school to report the absence.

Understand that the safety of our students and staff is our top priority when making the decision to delay or close school. We can assure you that our school buildings are warm, safe, and an ideal place for students to be when it is extremely cold outside.

Parents should make sure their child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather. The district urges students to wear winter hats, gloves, heavy coats, and boots. Frostbite and hypothermia are serious risks and need to be taken into consideration by the parents.

Thank You,

Joe Buerkley
Superintendent