

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the winter season approaches us, our team would like to share how we approach decisions regarding school closures due to inclement weather. These decisions are never taken lightly, and while there's no perfect formula, we rely on a thoughtful, collaborative process to guide us.

When severe weather is expected:

We monitor the weather and roads throughout the night into the early morning hours. Between our transportation services and city service personnel, road conditions are monitored and evaluated for travel safety. While this is happening, we check in with building staff to ensure entrance ways and heating systems are functioning and facilities are safe for students and staff.

Key factors we consider include:

- **Road and sidewalk conditions:** Are they safe for buses and student travel?
- **Snow and ice accumulation:** Are bus stops accessible and safe?
- **Temperature and wind chill:** We use the National Weather Service wind chill chart to determine if conditions are too dangerous for students waiting outside.
- **Building readiness:** We assess heating, parking lots, and entryways.
- **Forecast reliability:** If weather is expected to worsen during arrival or dismissal, we may decide to close proactively.

We also consult with neighboring districts as many of our educational programs lie outside the city of Wickliffe. Wickliffe does have outstanding services which puts our roads and sidewalks in better conditions than those in surrounding communities, which may allow us to remain open when others close.

Ultimately, every decision centers on one priority: **the safety and well-being of our students.**

When a closure is necessary, we communicate through multiple channels: robocalls via the Emergency Messenger system, updates on our district website, local news stations (WKYC, WEWS, FOX8, and WOIO).

Please know that every decision that we make is made with care, collaboration, and a deep commitment to our students and families

Sincerely,

Mike Chokshi

Superintendent Wickliffe City School District