

Regional School District #10

Serving the Towns of Harwinton and Burlington

FRAN THOMPSON, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools



SUSAN LAONE
Director of Finance & Operations

October 6, 2025

Dear Region 10 Families and Staff,

Pumpkin spice everything may just be hitting the shelves, but the questions about snow days have already started to swirl. Before the first flakes fly, I thought it would be helpful to share how we approach weather-related decisions in Region 10.

At the heart of every choice—whether it's a delay, early dismissal, or cancellation—is one simple priority: **the safety of our students and staff.**

What We Consider

- **Weather:** We monitor forecasts carefully, looking at snow amounts, wind, ice, and timing.
- **Roads:** We consult with public works crews and police about local road and school lot conditions.
- **Transportation:** We work with our bus company to assess the viability of the buses starting (due to outside temperature), driver availability and consideration of the safety of student and staff drivers.
- **Collaboration:** We consult with area Superintendents across the region and compare notes and sometimes make collective decisions, though each town's geography can lead to different outcomes.

How the Decision Gets Made

- **Early Morning Check:** The process often begins as early as 4:00 a.m.
- **Consultation:** I connect with the bus company, police, public works, and meteorologists.
- **Collaboration:** Superintendents in our area share information and perspectives.
- **Communication:** Once a decision is made, we notify families through our website, local television stations, social media, text messages, and an automated call. Please make sure your PowerSchool contact information is accurate, so you don't miss an update.

*** A test call will be conducted on Wednesday evening, October 8th at 6:00 PM.**

Whenever possible, we aim to announce a decision by 5:30 a.m. I know that no decision will ever make everyone happy, but I promise that each one is made thoughtfully, with safety at the center.

And as I remind myself whenever I second-guess the Yankees' manager after a game, hindsight is always easier than real-time decision-making. Thank you in advance for your understanding, grace, and flexibility as we navigate New England weather together.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Fran Thompson
Superintendent of Schools