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Winter weather guidance

Where data is gathered.

All weather data will be referenced from National Weather Service—Torrington airport—weather.gov

When will a decision be made

An attempt will be made to have decisions made on or before 8 PM the night before the expected weather. If conditions worsen through the night and it is necessary to wait until the next day, an attempt will be made to have decisions made before 5 AM.

If a late start is identified, the decision to stay with a late start or move to a virtual snow day will be made at or before 7:45 AM.

At what temperature will schools have a late start, early dismissal, or virtual snow day?

The actual temperature of -22 degrees and/or -34 wind chill will dictate a late start, early dismissal, or virtual snow day until the temperature exceeds -22 degrees and/or -34 wind chill. When the actual temperature is between -19 and -21 and/or the wind chill is between -28 and -33, and the relative humidity is above 70%, we will consider a late start or virtual snow day depending on the time period of the temperatures and if snow is on the ground. The data for that decision will come from the National Weather Service online page at weather.gov. Then, if that temperature is in the forecast over the next 24 hours at 6 PM the night before, steps will be taken to hold a late start, early dismissal, or virtual snow day, depending on how long that temperature will be present.

Wyoming Department of Transportation Road Indications and what it means for schools

- If a road has an identification of “No Unnecessary travel” or “Closed,”—No bus will pick up kids on roads indicated by that designation. If that designation is present at 7:30 PM the night before, the district will either indicate a virtual snow day or a late start. If there is the potential for road conditions to improve through the night, the decision will be made at or before 5 AM the following day. If a late start is identified, the decision to stay with a late start or virtual snow day will be made at or before 7:45 AM.
- If the road has the identification of “No Unnecessary travel” or “Closed” at 7:30 PM and there is no evidence to suggest it may change by 4:30 AM, a late start or virtual snow day will be initiated.
- If the road has the identification of “No Unnecessary travel” or “Closed” at 4:30 AM, a virtual late start or virtual snow day will be initiated. If a late start is initiated and the designation of “No Unnecessary travel” or “Closed” is still in place at 7:45 AM, a decision to have a virtual snow day will be made.

Weather indicators and what it means for schools

- Anytime snow is forecasted 12 or fewer hours before a school day, and snow is expected to meet or exceed 6 inches of accumulation in 24 hours with an 80% or more probability, a virtual snow day will be planned.
- If for over 50% of a route, the transportation director or designee can not exceed 60% of the posted speed limit or exceed 20 mph on gravel or dirt roads due to road conditions, that route will not be run.
- If 70% of routes for a school fall under the designation of not being able to be run based on the criteria mentioned above, the school will have a 2-hour late start, early dismissal, or virtual snow day (no school if devices and materials were not available) depending on the time of day the weather exists.
- If school is in session and it is forecasted that some rural routes will deteriorate sooner from changing weather, buses may run earlier than the school dismissal time. In this event, parents will be notified before students are placed on a bus.
- When 3 out of 4 geographic school areas (Lagrange, Lingle/Ft. Laramie, Southeast, Torrington) are delayed or have an early dismissal, the entire district will have a delayed start or early dismissal.
- Virtual snow day or snow day decisions will be based on each geographical school area. (Southeast/Lagrange, Lingle/Ft. Laramie, and Torrington)