Highlands School District Cancellation and Delay Procedures

As winter weather approaches, we would like to remind families of the district's procedures for delaying or canceling school so that you can plan accordingly. This notice also explains the district's Flexible Instruction and Remote Learning Days in the event of inclement weather.

The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, so decisions to delay or cancel classes are taken very seriously. During winter weather events, we consider current road and weather conditions, temperature, and wind chill. We also consult with transportation coordinators who travel the district streets to evaluate their safety. Please be aware that delays or cancellations may also occur unexpectedly due to events like a water main break, power outage, or other significant incidents. Make sure you have alternative plans in case the district needs to delay, cancel, or dismiss students early.

School delays and cancellations:

- The decision to delay or cancel school will be made and communicated whenever possible before 6:00 a.m., and if possible, the night before. However, there are times when changing road and weather conditions will require a later decision.

- A one-call message and email will be sent to families to notify them of any delay or cancellation. **Please ensure that your phone number and email address are current.** If your contact information needs updating, log into PowerSchool to make the necessary changes or contact your child's school. The Highlands School District website will post alerts about school delays or closures. Visit www.goldenrams.com for updates. This information will also be shared on the district's social media pages.

- Along with the one-call message, email, and website, Highlands also notifies three local news stations: **KDKA, WPXI, and WTAE**. Please note that the school district does not control the speed at which information is updated on the air. You may want to consider signing up for electronic alerts through the respective television stations.

Early Dismissal Plans:

If the Highlands School District needs to dismiss school early, please ensure your family has suitable childcare arrangements and dismissal plans in place. Your emergency contact information must be up-to-date. If you need to update your contact details, log into PowerSchool to make the necessary changes or contact your child's school.

Remember that parents/guardians always have the final say on whether to send their children to school. While we aim to make the best decisions possible within the given timeframe, unexpected winter weather issues may arise. Thank you for your support and assistance as we prepare for inclement weather.

Flexible Instruction and Remote Learning Days:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines, the Highlands School District will continue to use Flexible Instruction Days (FID) or Remote Learning Days instead of emergency school closures to minimize the need for make-up days. Specifically, the District will utilize either an FID or a Remote instruction day to replace cancellations caused by bad weather.

If the district needs to cancel in-person instruction, all students will receive remote learning through their district-issued devices. We encourage students to bring their devices home each evening during the winter months.

Transportation will only be provided to students attending schools outside the district, including those at Forbes Road CTC, on non-weather-related remote learning days.

The transition to a Flexible Instruction or Remote Learning Day **will be announced through a one-call message, email, district website, and social media channels.**

Flexible Instruction and Remote Learning Days will operate on a one-hour delayed schedule to give students and staff time to transition to remote instruction. Students should log in for homeroom by the specified times for all one-hour delays:

High School:	8:40 a.m.
Middle School:	9:10 a.m.
Elementary School:	9:55 a.m.
Early Childhood Center:	9:55 a.m.

NOTE: If the district is already on a two-hour delay and switches to an FID or remote learning day, students should adhere to the two-hour delay schedule.

- Students will participate in either synchronous (live with real-time instruction) or asynchronous learning. Students should check their Google Classroom for the link. Each teacher will post the day's instruction type on their Google Classroom and Zoom.
- Daily attendance will be taken during homeroom, so students must join on time. Those who join late will be marked absent for the day and must submit an excuse when they return.
- After homeroom, students should check their Google Classroom each period and follow the teacher's instructions for synchronous or asynchronous learning. Students who miss a synchronous class will be marked as an unexcused absence for that period. Disciplinary actions may be taken, just like on regular school days.
- Technical difficulties or connectivity issues should be reported to the classroom teacher. Students will not be penalized if there is an Internet problem. This can occur during bad weather; we will be flexible.

If you have questions about this notice's contents, please reach out to your child's building principal. Do not call the superintendent or other administrators, as they will not have specific details about each building's procedures.