

2021-22 Tumwater School District Inclement Weather Closure or Delay Procedures

One question we considered when planning for inclement weather this year is: Should we close school or attempt to offer a full day of remote instruction instead? In order to count a remote day as a school day, districts need to ensure that students have access to learning that day. When we have inclement weather that closes schools, families in rural regions of the district sometimes lose power or do not have reliable internet. Additionally, many of our teachers live in areas without reliable internet and would not be able to come to school to teach remote lessons. For both of these reasons, many students would not have access to instruction and assignments for the day. As a result, we will continue to have snow days for inclement weather. If we have to close, the day will be added back into the calendar later in the school year.

In case of snowfall, ice or other weather conditions that may require a late start or cancellation of school, the following procedures will be followed for a district-wide delay or closure:

1. District staff survey key roads (Alpine Hills, Scott Lake, Tumwater Hill, etc.) to determine conditions and safety factors.
2. Transportation Supervisor notifies the Superintendent or designee by 5:30 a.m. (or earlier) of road conditions and makes recommendation on action to take.
3. Superintendent or designee converses with Olympia, North Thurston, and Yelm superintendents to determine a joint approach, if possible. Superintendent or designee notifies Transportation Supervisor; also notifies district leaders who communicate decision to staff, parents and the media.
4. Bus drivers are notified ASAP by Transportation Supervisor after the decision is made via School Messenger (robocall).
5. Transportation Supervisor activates and communicates bussing plan for the day depending on whether buses are late, on snow routes, or service is canceled.
6. District families and staff will be notified by 6:00 a.m. via Black Board Mass Notifications (robocall/email). Notification is also sent via Flashalert.com, the District Twitter account (@TumwaterSDNews), District Facebook page, District webpage, and the emergency line 360-709-7999.

Guidelines for Staff in Inclement Weather Conditions

Inclement Weather Options:

1. No School – School may be closed due to widespread power outages, unexpected storms or other weather events that make operating schools impractical. Information about activities planned for the day will be announced by 12 pm on the district website.
 - a. District Office administrators, support staff, and Buildings & Grounds employees, as well as the supervisors of Transportation and Food Services, report to sites as normal if safe to do so.
 - b. Site administrators will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to report to their sites. All administrators should communicate their decision when calls are made.

2. Late Start – No AM Preschool, no AM New Market Skills Center - Employees working on-site should report to their site at regular time, if safe to do so.
 - a. Building administrators have the flexibility to process safety issues with their employees.
 - b. If an employee believes there is a safety issue involved (ie: lives 30 miles away and roads are extremely bad) he/she may choose to take appropriate leave as provided by contracts.
3. Early Dismissal – No PM Preschool, No PM New Market Skills Center
 - a. Building administrator should work with staff to determine when on-site staff leaves. Parameters to consider:
 - i. All students being served on-site have left or are accounted for;
 - ii. Safety, health and welfare of staff are taken into consideration
4. Limited Transportation/Emergency Routes: Limited transportation will be necessary