

Information for Parents about School Closings Due to the Weather

The Rochester City School District assesses the weather based on data from the National Weather Service and the monitoring of local conditions. We then make decisions about school operations with the safety of our students in mind.

- In the event that our schools are closed or the arrival/dismissal time is changed due to severe weather, an announcement will be made on local T.V. and radio stations and media websites. It will also be noted on the district's website, www.rcsdk12.org.
- If schools will be closed for the day, the district will notify the media by 5:00 a.m. Parents will also be notified by an automated telephone message.

NOTE: Be sure your child's school has your current home, work and cell phone numbers on file as well as current emergency contact information.

- If school is closed for the day, all after-school activities in the district, including sports and evening events, will be canceled. Also, when our schools are closed, no transportation will be provided to private, parochial, or charter schools in the city.
- If the opening of school is delayed or students will be dismissed early, an announcement will be made on T.V. and radio. You will also receive an automated phone call from the district.
- Instruct your child about what to do, who to contact, and/or where to go if school is dismissed early.
- School personnel will not leave their buildings until all students are transported home and walkers are dismissed.

Dressing Safely for Winter Weather

The New York State Health Department offers these tips:

1. Wear loose, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air between the layers acts as an insulator. Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill.
2. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent and hooded.
3. Always wear a hat or cap on your head since half of your body heat could be lost through an uncovered head.
4. Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs from extreme cold.
5. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves because fingers maintain more warmth when they touch each other.

http://www.semo.state.ny.us/info/publicsafety/winter_safety_tips.cfm

How does the Rochester City School District decide to close schools due to the weather?

Student safety is the primary concern of the Superintendent when making the decision to close schools due to weather conditions.

Several factors are taken into consideration:

1. Is the wind chill -20 degrees or colder?
2. Will the wind chill stay that low for an extended period of time?
3. Will the temperature be below zero for an extended period of time?
4. Is there blowing and drifting snow with winds of 20 miles per hour or more?
5. Is there or will there be a heavy accumulation of snow?
6. Are streets and sidewalks clear?
7. Are buses unable to run due to extreme cold or unplowed streets?
8. Are driving conditions hazardous?
9. Are there power or phone outages?

In considering these factors, district officials monitor the weather forecast, consult with the City of Rochester Department of Public Works, and physically observe road and sidewalk conditions. The Superintendent of Schools makes the final decision on whether to close schools.