

## **Extreme Weather and Criteria for Altering or Closing School**

When we face predictions of excessive snowfall, our options are either to cancel school completely or to call for a Delayed Start schedule where we start the school day two hours later than normal. The foremost concern is whether we can make it possible for students and staff to get to school safely and for school to operate safely. We have staff in the district evaluating our schools and the roads throughout the night or as early as 4 a.m. Cancelling school certainly ensures safety, but it does mean extending the school year by another day.

When we face predictions of extreme cold, our options for a Delayed Start versus cancellation are also dependent upon the forecast and upon whether we can make it possible for students and staff to get to school safely and for school to operate safely. Although there are many factors taken into consideration, we do consult the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) wind chill chart. Once temperatures with wind chill dip into the category of frostbite within 5-10 minutes during commuting hours we are likely to close.

We do take into consideration other factors, including how surrounding schools are responding. However, not all school districts have Delayed Start procedures in place and may have other factors they must consider, such as very lengthy busing distances.

We are well aware that we never please everyone when we are faced with extreme weather conditions that require cancelling school or changing our schedule. Please know that our primary consideration is always what is best for the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.