



## Winter Weather Guidance

Winter weather can disrupt school operations. As we prepare for the coming winter months, I want to share how we decide whether to delay or cancel school.

### Decision Process on Closures or Delays

- We review current conditions each morning.
- Facilities and Transportation directors assess road conditions and bus feasibility by driving district routes.
- We consult forecasts, County Road Commissions, county emergency dispatchers, and neighboring districts.
- A final decision is made by 5:45 AM (or earlier) and shared with local news outlets.
- Notifications are sent to families and staff via school messenger, the district webpage and mobile app, the website, and Facebook.

### Winter-Specific Considerations

- **Wind chill:**
  - Wind Chill WARNING for Eaton County just before/during the morning → likely closure.
  - Wind Chill ADVISORY (no WARNING) → likely open, per National Weather Service thresholds.
- **Fog and frost:** Delays may occur if dense fog or frost is forecast to dissipate.
- **Bus routes:** If road conditions threaten bus travel, delays or closures may be necessary even if other areas remain open.

### Delays and Early Dismissals

- **Delays:** If conditions are expected to improve, opening may be delayed up to two hours. Delays announced through the same channels as closures.
- **Early dismissal:** Typically avoided; if weather worsens during the day, a dismissal plan will be communicated to families.

Student and staff safety is our top priority. By assessing conditions each morning, evaluating road and bus feasibility, and consulting forecasts and local agencies, we make timely closure or delay decisions. Clear, multi-channel communication ensures notice for planning. While weather is unpredictable, our process minimizes risk by closing, delaying, or dismissing early only when travel conditions are unsafe. We strive to keep families informed with reliable, timely updates.

## GO VIKINGS!