

“Weather-Related Emergency Closure Procedures”

Since parents are the primary protector, they will need to decide what is right for their children. The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at the parent's discretion and the school understands and respects their decision. For your child's health and safety, please be prepared for bad weather and school closures. Dress your child in warm clothing during bad weather.

The schools in Snake River School District will remain open, if at all possible, on all scheduled school days. Even when weather conditions are extreme, every effort will be made to keep schools open in the belief that it is in the best interest of the students. Once in session, school will not be dismissed unless school authorities have been assured by local emergency authorities that routes are safe for student use. However, if conditions force school closures, announcements will be made through the local media.

Make advance arrangements with neighbors, babysitters, or daycare for your child's care in the event the school bus is late or your child arrives home sooner than usual because of early school dismissal. Tell your child in advance what to do in such circumstances and leave instructions with the child's school. Make sure the schools have up-to-date emergency information.

There are basically three different situations that occur when schools are closed due to weather.

1. The most common event is strong winds and heavy snow during the night closing roads and making bus transportation impossible. In this event, school closure will be announced by local television and radio stations after 6:00 a.m.
2. Extremely cold weather sometimes accompanied by wind results in a very low "wind chill" factor. The buses are heated and the buildings are warm and safe. However, there could be the possibility of school starting later in the day due to extremely cold weather. If this occurs, it will be announced by 6:00 a.m. with a message such as "Snake River School District will start two hours late." If this happens, the buses will arrive at your child's bus stop two hours later than normal and your child's school will start two hours later than normal. The schools will dismiss at the regular time and the bus will bring your child home at the regular time.

*Dress your children
warmly for their ride to
and from school.”*



3. The condition that causes the most problems and concerns for student safety is considering closing school and returning students home early when the weather changes from fair to a blizzard in the late morning or early afternoon. Although some parents are home, other parents have anticipated that their children would be safe at school and would be returning home at the normal time. When schools are closed and students are returned home earlier than usual, it could lead to situations that are not safe for the children, such as being locked out of their home or being in a house alone. The school district communicates very closely with the county road crews in coordinating road plowing with bus routes. If a closure is necessary, the district will notify the community by means of radio and TV announcements and, as usual, the staff and bus drivers will make sure someone is home or has been contacted about their student's situation. Make sure we have your latest contact information!

Please do not bring children to the school buildings before 8:00 a.m. and drop them off. If that particular building was closed due to weather or some other event there would be no one to supervise your child.

Weather-related closures of school also cancel district activities automatically for that particular day. This applies to all groups scheduled to use school facilities on that day. An exception to this rule concerns activities sponsored by the Idaho High School Activities Association and some other activities held at the High School. The building principal and superintendent determine cancellation of these activities on a case-by-case basis.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO
MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S
SCHOOL EMERGENCY CONTACT
INFORMATION IS CURRENT.**

Critical Emergency Closures

Parents and their children should discuss and plan for “emergency situations” that might happen at school. The schools have practice drills and the students are taught what to do in case of an emergency, but it is helpful for the parents to reinforce that students should try to stay calm and follow the directions given by their teachers and the staff. Children need to stay with their teacher in an emergency so they can be accounted for and so that instructions can be given in an orderly way.

In case of any emergency school closure, either district-wide or a single building, notice of the school closure will be given to the local television and radio stations.

It is important that they have the correct telephone number for your family, so notify the schools if there have been any changes or a cell phone number could be added. If you believe there is an emergency situation or extreme weather concerns, please monitor the television and radio stations for announcements concerning school closures. In the morning, the stations do not start broadcasting school closures until after 6:00 a.m.

If there is a crisis emergency during school hours (whether district-wide or at any of the buildings), parents should NOT come to the schools.

Parents should be assured that their children's safety is always the district's first consideration but if parents drive to the schools this might contribute to confusion and block emergency vehicles and personnel that are there to help.

The administration will cooperate fully with emergency personnel and will be in immediate contact with the media to advise parents of the situation. If the school building is unsafe for children, they will be taken to a safe alternative shelter and parents will be directed where to go to get their student. Teachers will stay with the students until all their students are picked up and/or the principal or his/her designee approves their leaving. Students will be released only to the parent or adult that is listed on their student information card. Any other adult showing up may stay WITH the student, but they will NOT be permitted to leave with them. It is also a good idea to have a picture ID with you when you pick up your student.