

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The Superintendent of Schools may close the schools or dismiss students/staff early when hazardous weather or other emergencies threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. The Superintendent may delegate this authority to another staff member in the event of his/her absence. Such action is never to be taken lightly, for public education is one of the principal functions of the community and should be maintained at a normal level except in extreme circumstances.

Schools will not be closed merely to avoid inconvenience. While it may be prudent, under certain circumstances, to excuse all students from attending school, to delay the opening hour, or to dismiss students early, the Superintendent has the responsibility to ensure that administrative, supervisory, and operational activity is continued to the extent possible. School closing and delayed starting times will be announced over local radio stations. If no report is heard, it can be assumed that the schools are in session, and are opening on time.

In making the decision to close schools, the Superintendent may consider many factors, including the following, which relate to the safety and health of children:

1. weather conditions, both existing and predicted;
2. driving, traffic, and parking conditions affecting public and private transportation facilities;
3. actual occurrence of imminent possibility of any emergency condition that would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous; and
4. inability of teaching personnel to report for duty, which might result in inadequate supervision of students.

Among the other factors the Superintendent may consider are advice from traffic and weather authorities, Building Principals, and school officials.

Students, parents, and staff will be informed early in each school year of the procedures that will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing.

Ref: Education Law §3604(7)

Adoption date: February 12, 2008