

Perry Township Schools
Inclement Weather and School Closing

Beliefs

- Parents care deeply about their children.
- If school is open, or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.
- Parents have a variety of opinions and although we try, it is not likely the school will ever meet the expectations of everyone.
- Parents are committed to keeping children safe and these parents will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending the children to school.
- Weather conditions, at times, are expected to be unpredictable in Central Indiana. We believe parents have plans in place for weather related delays and closures.

What Timeline is Followed to Make the Decision to Attend School?

When weather advisories are posted and inclement weather is eminent, Transportation, Maintenance and Central Office administration begin monitoring local weather conditions. Beginning at 4:00 a.m., roads are driven and conditions are reviewed by Transportation, Maintenance and administrative personnel. A final decision on school delay and cancellation is completed by approximately 5:00 a.m.. If there is a delay or cancellation of school, notification is sent out through voicemail, Facebook, Twitter and website as well as local media.

Delaying or Closing School is Based on Multiple Variables

Freezing Rain/Sleet

- Freezing rain and sleet is unpredictable. Temperature and speed of the moisture is a major factor. When freezing rain/sleet are predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. We make this decision in the morning.

Snowfall

- Snowfall is much more predictable. Typically, there is a 2 inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because the variation in actual snowfall, when compared to predicted snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. We make this decision in the morning.

Extreme Snowfall Situations

- Significant snow fall that has accumulated and makes it unlikely that streets will be passable by the following morning enables the decision to attend school at times, the previous evening.

Extreme Cold

- Temperature prediction has become increasingly accurate. We monitor temperature predictions for Perry Township from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov). If air temperature is predicted by NOAA to be -10 degrees or below (the starting point for wind chill concerns with calm wind) at 5:00 a.m. the school will consider a two hour delay for the start of school. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, perhaps the evening before, but certainly by 5:00 a.m. in the morning.

Extreme Wind Chill

- Wind chill prediction is not as accurate. Variables by time and location have an effect on this number. NOAA observations are based upon the open conditions of the Indianapolis Airport. Local observations of wind speed will effect the decision regarding delaying or closing school. Wind chill concerns emerge at a predicted wind chill temperature of minus 10 degrees. Typically this decision is made in the morning unless the predictions are extreme.

Functional Facilities

- Utility issues (gas, electricity, water) may cause a school to close. Issues associated with cold, including water supply to a building and electricity to a building or neighborhood, may cause school to be cancelled.

Other Related Topics

School Calendar Consequences

- President's Day is used as a snow day. Any additional make-up days are added on to the end of the school year. Over the past five years, we have cancelled an average of one day per year.