

*Winchester Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent  
154 Horn Pond Brook Road  
Winchester, MA 01890  
781-721-7004*

**A message from the Superintendent concerning school closing or delayed opening, due to inclement weather.**

In addition to the possibility of closing schools due to inclement weather, we may also use a delayed opening. In order to ensure greater safety, the opening of schools may be delayed up to two hours. Be sure to listen to the no school announcements and/or a call from our automated School Messenger phone service.

**If there is a delay in the start of school due to inclement weather there will be NO “MORNING ONLY” PRESCHOOL classes. The other preschool programs will follow the time delay as indicated for the rest of the district.**

Should there be a delayed opening, students will be expected to go to their bus stop or to leave their houses (if they walk to school) one (or two) hours after their regularly scheduled time. School start times will begin according to the length of the delay. The bus company and crossing guards will know about the delay and will rearrange their schedules accordingly.

Once a decision has been made to close schools or delay the opening, the Superintendent will activate our School Messenger Communication System. This means that all parents will receive an automated phone call indicating that school has either been cancelled or will open late.

In addition to the automated call the information will also be sent to television outlets as identified below as well as WBZ (1030) radio. **Please do not call the police, fire or school officials.** This only ties up telephone lines and disrupts attempts to plan for or respond to emergencies.

**PLEASE NOTE: If the announcement is not on the television or an automated call is not received the previous evening, the decision has not yet been made. Normally, the decision is not made until the early morning hours of the day in question.**

<b>Every effort will be made to activate the automated calls as well as to post the “No School” announcements to the following television channels by 6:00 a.m.</b>
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<b>WBZ – Channel 4</b>
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<b>WCVB – Channel 5</b>
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<b>WHDH – Channel 7</b>
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<b>WFXT – FOX 25</b>
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<b>WinCam – Channel 9/37</b>
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<b><a href="http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us">www.winchester.k12.ma.us</a></b>
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<b>Click link for School Cancellation Notification</b>
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The decision to close or delay the opening of school is made by the Superintendent of Schools. This decision is based upon the best information available from a variety of sources including the Public Works Department, Police Department, the U.S. Weather Bureau and local weather forecasters, regarding weather conditions, street conditions, and safety factors. All efforts are made to make a decision sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 A.M. or, earlier if the conditions so warrant. Weather conditions do change sometimes, for better or for worse, but our intent is to determine that it is reasonably safe for students and staff to attend school.

**If school is held, but conditions are still very bad on any particular street or area in town, parents are urged to use their own judgment in determining whether or not to send a student to school. A student will not be marked absent in such a case.**

If a storm occurs during a school day, school will ordinarily remain in session. We are advised by the Police Department that once students are in school they are better off remaining there than being released early because of a storm. The reasons for this include: the Town has more time to service major accesses to and from schools prior to dismissal and parents of many younger children may not be home to receive them.

However, early dismissals, should they occur, will be communicated to parents through our School Messenger Communications System via an automated phone call. Parents are urged to make certain that their child knows where to go, in the event schools have to be dismissed early

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. The safety of the children will always be our prime consideration.

*William H. McAlduff, Jr.*

William H. McAlduff, Jr.  
Superintendent