

*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.

**If there is a delay in the start of school due to inclement weather there will be NO MORNING 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. The bus company and crossing guards will know about the delay and will rearrange their schedules accordingly.

The quickest way to determine whether school will be closed or the opening delayed due to bad weather is to listen to your radio or television. **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.

<b>Every effort will be made to call in “No School” announcements to the following radio stations and television channels before 6:00 a.m.</b>
<b>WBZ – Channel 4</b>
<b>WCVB – Channel 5</b>
<b>WHDH – Channel 7</b>
<b>WFXT – FOX 25</b>
<b>WinCam – Channel 9/37</b>
<b><a href="http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us">www.winchester.k12.ma.us</a></b> <b>Click link for School Cancellation Notification</b>
<b>If the announcement is not on the radio 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>

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 on street and weather conditions from the Police Department, Public Works Department and the U.S. Weather Bureau, at the time the decision must be made, usually before 5:30 a.m. However, it may be necessary where the decision has to be made after that. 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, parents should also make certain that their child knows where to go, in the event schools have to be dismissed early. Early dismissals, should they occur, will also be broadcast in advance over the referenced radio and television stations. Parents, guardians, and emergency contacts will also be contacted through our emergency "School Messenger" service.

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

William H. McAlduff, Jr.  
Superintendent

