

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The School Board believes that the safety and health of children must be protected at all times; and therefore, directs the district administrator to set up guidelines for the closing of school for safety and health reasons.

The district administrator is empowered to close the district's schools or to dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the health or safety of students and personnel or are perceived to substantially disrupt the instructional process. If emergency conditions affect only a single building, only that school will be closed.

In making the decision to cancel classes for the day or close school early, the district administrator or designee will consider many factors, including the following:

1. Weather conditions, both existing and predicted.
2. Travel conditions affecting public and private transportation, including transportation for handicapped and non-resident students.
3. Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition which would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous to the health, safety, or welfare of students and staff.
4. Conditions affecting walking to and from school and appropriately supervised homes for students in the event school is dismissed early.

The district administrator will weigh all pertinent factors and may consult with all appropriate resources in making the decision to close schools. Students, parents and staff will be informed of school closings as early as practical by announcements over television and radio stations in Milwaukee. A notice will be sent to district families annually to enable them to develop appropriate plans and learn the radio and television stations that will make school closing announcements.

When school is closed or dismissed early for hazardous weather, any school or district-sponsored activity scheduled for that day or evening will be canceled. This is to ensure clear communication to the wide range of families and groups effected by school closings. There will be no exceptions considered even when cancellation results in forfeiture of an athletic contest or loss of an important performance opportunity. When school is closed or dismissed early for an emergency caused by an effect other than weather, school sponsored activities may be conducted or canceled based on consideration of safety.