



## SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

Dear SHPS Parent/Guardian(s):

One of the most challenging decisions as a superintendent is making the decision on when to close schools due to inclement weather. Living in Michigan, we frequently face the challenges of bad weather. Knowing the cancellation of school impacts many of our students and parents in different ways, I wanted to share some thoughts that may help you better understand how the decisions to delay or close school are made.

The decision-making process begins the day and night before when weather alerts are received from the National Weather Service. Around 4:15 a.m. our Transportation Supervisor, Ms. Walantyn, begins to communicate with neighboring transportation directors and driving our district's roads. If she determines there is a possibility of a school closing or delay, she contacts me. At that time we review the latest weather announcements from the NWS, discuss weather conditions in neighboring areas, and continue to drive the roads in our district and review our local conditions. Based on this information, I make the decision to hold school, close school or delay school. Our goal is to make the decision by 5:00 a.m. Shortly after informing early morning employees, we begin to notify parents through local television and radio stations (WKZO, WWMT, WOOD, WOTV) and via the district's parent alert system.

Please keep in mind that your child's safety is our primary concern and we would never knowingly make a decision that would place your child in danger. I know from experience, weather conditions can be different throughout the community and we cannot travel every road. Weather conditions can also change dramatically between 5:00 a.m. and the start of school. Therefore keep in mind, that ultimately it is your decision whether or not to permit your child to come to school. Students who walk as opposed to riding a bus may face different challenges associated with coming to school. I also encourage parents with inexperienced student drivers to pay particular attention to the weather conditions as you know your child's driving ability best. It is also your right, if you are uncomfortable with the weather conditions during the day, to communicate with your school's office staff and make the necessary arrangements to pick up your child.

I am well aware there may be questions regarding the decisions. Once again, please keep in mind that your child's safety is my highest priority on inclement weather days.

Sincerely,

Robert Herrera, Ed. D  
Superintendent