

Anderson Community Schools
Weather Information



Operations, School Year 2015/16

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to list the various types of winter weather encountered at Anderson Community Schools, and our response to that weather. Also, criteria for delays and closings are listed, as well as an explanation of the closing levels used within our corporation.

Fog:

Although fog can occur at any time of the year, fall usually brings the chance of morning ground fog. This is due to cooler air temperatures, and moisture from agricultural fields. . Amongst the items checked are general visibility, road edge visibility, ability to see road signs, and anticipated length of low-visibility.

Winter Weather:

The months of January and February are the most active months for snow and ice that could affect the corporation status. We occasionally have inclement weather in March, and in such cases, our rationale would still apply. In general, there are 6 levels of alerts for winter weather. These include watches, advisories, and warnings. They will occur for both Winter Storms and Wind Chill. Watches mean that storm or wind chill events are predicted and have a chance to happen. We generally take no action on a watch, other than to observe and track changes in the weather via radar and the National Weather Service. An advisory means that a storm or wind chill event is occurring, and is a lower priority level. We do use advisories to assist us in planning for a school day, or event. Warnings are the most severe level of alert, and indicate that a serious threat will occur. We also track these events as they happen, and use them to plan the school day.

Close or Delay:

The decision to close or delay school is always taken seriously. We will look at making a closure or a delay if conditions are present that are serious enough to endanger students and staff. If conditions have a reasonable chance to end within several hours, we call a delay. If conditions are going to last through the morning hours, we will normally close.

Procedures we follow to monitor weather:

Weather and road condition are monitored EVERY day starting at 4:00am, good weather or bad. If conditions warrant, extended driving will occur to take actual snow, ice, wind-speed, and temperature data.

We look at ice coverage, road edge visibility, as well as bridge and intersection condition.

On temperature, the National Weather Service lists -18F as a threshold before extended exposure can cause frostbite. We use -15F as a point where we look at a delay. If there is an advisory in place, that also is taken into account.

We also consult with all the surrounding school districts, and try to make joint decisions.

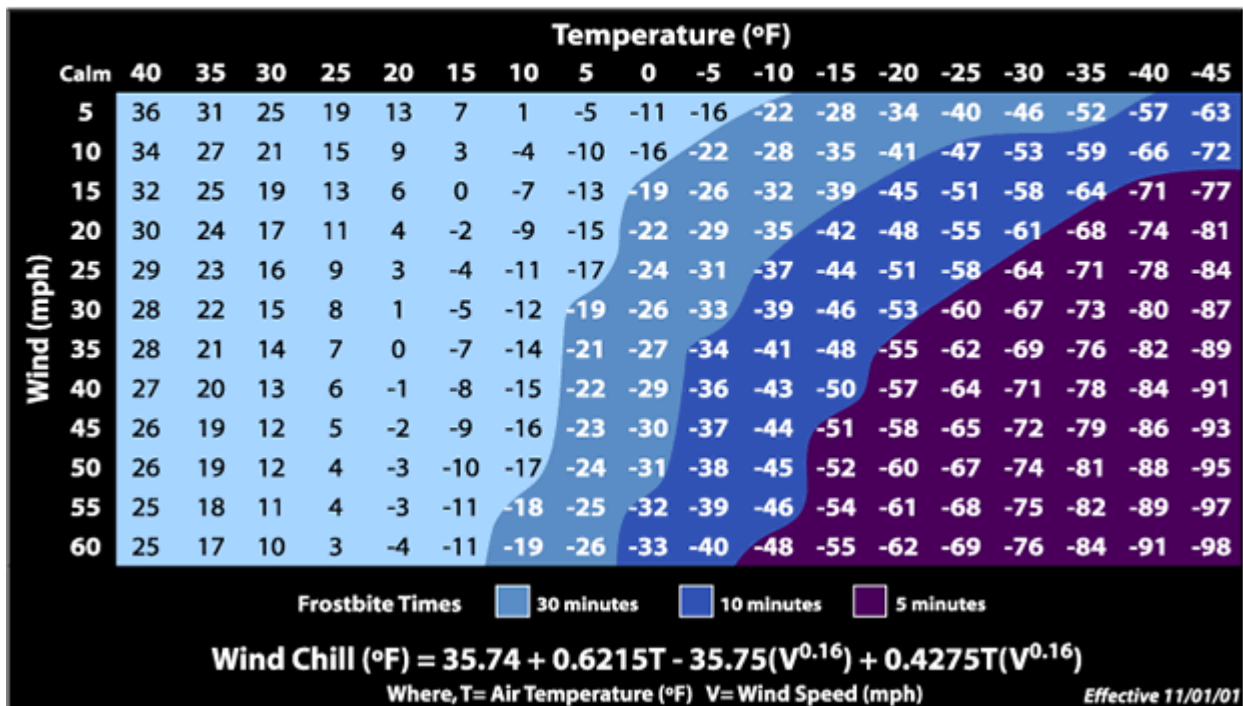
Delay or closing decisions are made around 5am, and calls are made prior to 5:30am.

Our job is to give every child a full instructional day, every day that it is safe to do so.

Wind Chill Chart:



Wind Chill Chart



Closing Levels:

If you see "Anderson Community Schools" on the ACS Facebook, ACS Website, or on TV as cancelled, or if you get the phone call or email, **attendance is NOT required of any student, or employee who is not required by contract to attend. This is Level 1**, and is the typical level of closure, and is the level of closure unless another level is clearly posted. The levels are determined by the potential risk to travel, and scale of operational recovery, and based upon the projected weather.

If you see **Level 2**, that means more severe weather is expected and attendance is required only of personnel whose duties are snow removal.

If you see **Level 3**, that means we expect potentially dangerous weather, and that attendance is not required of any employee.

Although no level expressly prohibits employees from going to their school during a closure, please do be aware that conditions in a **level 2 or 3 closure indicate that the primary mission of the corporation is removing snow and other weather-related hazards in order to get students back to school as quickly as possible.**

Excess cars and traffic in parking lots, and other issues (such as failing to secure doors or Sonitrol) can take man-hours and equipment away from the snow removal mission, so please be aware of that if you choose to go into a school during a closure. **In a level 2 or especially a level 3, it would be preferable to minimize the number of people and vehicles in and around the school buildings.**