

Inclement Weather Communication Plan

In the event of inclement weather causing a delay or cancellation of classes, Snyder ISD will communicate with the community, parents, and staff via the following:

Sky Alert Phone System (Staff & Parents)

[SISD Facebook](#)

[SISD Twitter](#)

[Snyder ISD Website](#)

Snyder ISD Signage

KSNY 101.5 FM Radio-Snyder [Big Star Radio Facebook Page](#)

KGWB WTC FM 91.1 Radio-Snyder

[KTXS 12 Television-Abilene](#)

KRBC 9 Television-Abilene

KTAB 32 Television-Abilene

[KCBD 11 Television-Lubbock](#)

KLBK 13 Television-Lubbock

KJTV Fox 34 Television-Lubbock

In the event of an unplanned early release, Snyder ISD will communicate via the following:

Sky Alert Phone System (Parents)

[SISD Facebook Page](#)

[SISD Twitter Page](#)

KSNY 101.5 FM Radio-Snyder [Big Star Radio Facebook Page](#)

[Snyder ISD Website](#)

Snyder ISD Signage

For schools, the weather delay or closing process is complicated, but one thing is simple: The first priority is student and staff safety. Above all, district staff focuses on the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff. Parents are accustomed to checking the news for closure announcements and phones for automated alerts from the school. Whether students and parents cheer because it means a “snow day” at home or groan they must scramble to make contingency plans, most of what goes on behind the scenes for the school to arrive at that decision is unknown.

Many factors are carefully analyzed when the district decides whether to delay opening or canceling school:

- **Consultations with weather experts.** We receive frequent weather updates from the National Weather Service. Most times, monitoring usually begins more than 24 hours prior to the forecasted inclement weather. Meteorologists' predictions are a calculated guess about the future and can be inaccurate—especially in Texas— but forecasts are taken into account.
- **Information on road conditions from transportation staff.** District personnel begin driving roads between 3-4 a.m. to determine the degree of iciness and road safety. The school district gives careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Though the streets in your neighborhood may look clear, other streets in the district may be dangerous. In addition, school districts are aware of the risk to the least experienced drivers— high school students.
- **Amount of snow or ice accumulated, projected accumulations, and whether precipitation is continuing.** We recently had a day where a wintry mix that wasn't predicted to reach us arrived at about 7:00 a.m. This is the most difficult scenario as many buses and parents had already delivered students to school before the roads became slick.
- **Parking lot conditions.** If the school parking lots can't be cleared and treated before school starts, parents' vehicles and school buses can't navigate safely in the parking lots, which causes dangerous conditions for students, parents, and bus drivers.
- **Temperature and wind chill.** Some students walk or ride bicycles to and from school, and some have to wait outside in the harsh weather at their bus stop. .
- **What area school districts and colleges are doing.** While every district is unique in its circumstances, district staff does monitor what nearby districts are doing to help guide the decision-making process.

The superintendent makes the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from district staff. Then the public is notified via local radio and TV stations, the district website, the district Facebook page and the SkyAlert system. The district is aware that waiting too long to make the decision affects parents' ability to make childcare arrangements, and also affects district staff who are scheduled to arrive hours before school starts.

Every effort is made to make a decision by 5:30 a.m. or earlier so that parents and staff can be notified by 6 a.m. When severe weather is a certainty, the decision may be made the night before. If school is already in session and severe weather develops, a whole other set of variables enters the

decision-making process. We then have to take protective measures to ensure the safety of the students in their care during the adverse weather. It's not a simple decision to dismiss early, because in some cases, early dismissal causes parents to drive to pick up their children in dangerous weather.

The decision to delay or cancel school is never easy, especially when school administration must then deal with the aftermath of rescheduling makeup days in an already tight school calendar, and frustrated parents who disagree with the decision to close. One thing we can always agree on: we all want to keep the students and staff safe.