

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, December 18, 2007

FOR INFORMATION: School Closings and Delays

In preparation for weather that would cause a delay or cancellation, please find frequently asked questions, as well as procedures followed in the event of a school delay/closing:

Who makes the decision to delay or close schools? The decision to delay start of school or to cancel for the day is made based on weather conditions, considering the current situation as well as temperature and weather forecasts. The Superintendent ultimately makes the decision.

How is the decision made? The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority during inclement weather. The Directors of Building Operations, Transportation, and Planning/Safety begin the process – typically early in the morning (about 3 a.m.) – by driving roads, checking with local law enforcement and city, county and state highway officials. Transportation Directors from surrounding school systems are contacted to compare information.

When all information is collected, a recommendation is made to the Superintendent on the cancellation or delay.

If the decision is based on cold rather than inclement weather, the wind-chill factor is taken into consideration. For example zero without wind may not be as hazardous as a temperature of 10 with a wind-chill factor that brings the temperature to -5.

On some occasions a decision will be made to delay the start of school rather than to cancel for the day. This is especially true when the forecast projects frigid weather, fog, or snow. A delay usually assures that students will be picked up when it is daylight and perhaps the sun will even be shining to take away some of the chill.

When is the decision made and how can I find out if school is delayed or closed? The decision is made as early as possible, but normally by 5:00 a.m. Once a decision is made, radio and television stations are notified and the website stoplight is changed. Additionally, the announcement is recorded on the main switchboard at the Administration Center (330-7700) and a messaging system relays the information to Staff and Parents.

Why not just decide to close school (or delay) based on the weather forecast the night before? It is very difficult to make a decision to delay or close school based on a predicted forecast, especially when the forecast relates to snow. The decision will typically be made in the morning, based upon all factors addressed above.

When is a decision made to dismiss students early? Schools are rarely dismissed early because it is extremely difficult to contact parents of all children to make sure that someone will be at home when they arrive early. If a decision is made to dismiss early, it takes two hours to get all bus drivers available and ready to run bus routes. For example, if elementary schools were dismissed two hours early (1:15 p.m.) the decision would have to be made at 11:15 a.m. Since these children start the school day at 9:00 a.m. it is unlikely that

weather circumstances would have changed much in a two-hour period of time. If an unexpected mid-day snow storm arrives, a decision to dismiss students in the middle of the storm is not in their best interest. It is better to allow snow plows and sand trucks to work on the roads before sending busloads of children home.

I think schools should have been closed – it is not safe to be on the road and I don't want my child to go out in this weather. Each parent has a right to determine if his/her child will go to school. If the parent feels it is unsafe, he/she has every right to keep the child at home. The child will be counted absent with parent consent but he/she may make up any work missed.

Do we have to make up days missed? If school is delayed no more than two hours, the school system does not have to 'make up' that time lost. If school is canceled, the day(s) canceled must be made up and they are added to the end of the school year calendar.

PROCEDURES FOR CANCELING ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED

At the Elementary and Middle Schools, all practices, extracurricular activities, and athletic events are canceled for the day. At the High Schools, if the weather improves, the Sponsor/Athletic Director will recommend to the High School Principal, who will work directly with the Director of Building Operations to determine if students should voluntarily have practice, activities or athletic events after 1:00 pm. The Director of Building Operations will work with the Directors of Transportation and Planning/Safety to make this determination. If the decision is made to allow any event, the Directors of Building Operations will update the Superintendent immediately

Ready Set Grow and School Age Care Programs are canceled.

If all schools are closed on Friday, Saturday School is canceled regardless of the weather situation on Saturday.

If there is no question regarding safety of students, Saturday practices/activities/events will not be affected. However, if weather/ road conditions warrant reconsideration, the Directors of Building Operations, Transportation, and Planning/Safety will decide if students can be safely transported via school buses and/or school-owned vehicles. The principals of schools involved will consult with the Director of Building Operations early in the day to determine the advisability of canceling activities/events on Saturday. A recommendation will be made to the Superintendent from the Director of Building Operations. A system wide decision will be reached and reported to the news media in the same manner as school closings/delays/early dismissals on regular school days.

ALL SCHOOLS DELAYED

After school and evening practices/activities/athletic events not affected. Before school activities are delayed. Ready Set Grow and School Age Care Programs operate on regular schedule

ALL SCHOOLS DISMISSED EARLY

All after-school activities, including practices and athletic events, are canceled for the day. After-school School Age Program operates on regular schedule.

ALL SCHOOLS DISMISSED EARLY ON FRIDAY

All after-school activities, including practices and athletic events, are canceled for the day. Saturday School is canceled, regardless of weather situation on Saturday. If obviously no question regarding safety of students, Saturday practices/activities/events will not be affected. However, if weather/road conditions warrant reconsideration, Director of Extended Services will decide if students can be safely transported via school buses and/or school-owned vehicles. The principals of schools involved will consult with the Superintendent and Director of Extended Services early in the day to determine the advisability of canceling activities/events on Saturday. A system-wide decision will be reached and reported to the news media in the same manner as school closings/delays/early dismissals on regular school days.

Please note the following schedule for DELAYS:

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday -Thursday-Friday

Elementary Schools -----11:00 am

Middle/High Schools-----10:00 am

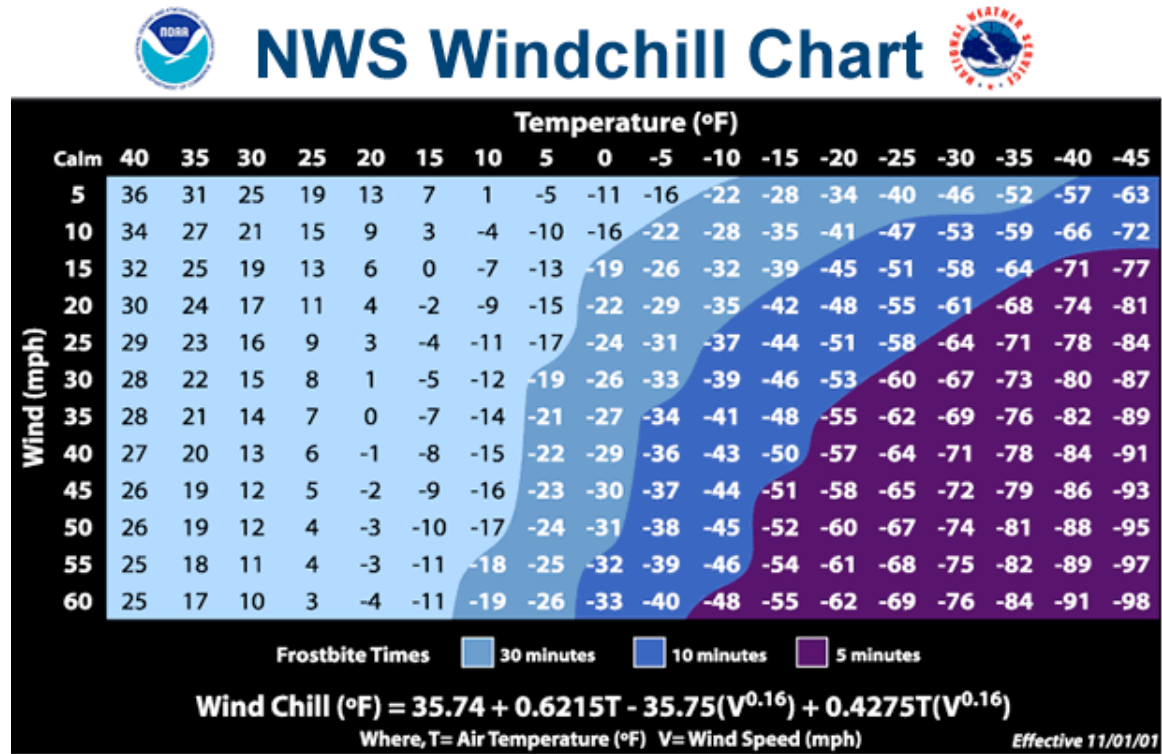
MEDIA CONTACTED WHEN SCHOOLS ARE DELAYED OR CLOSED:

Central Dispatch	WHCC 105.1 or B97
County Highway Department	WISH TV- Channel 8
Herald-Times	WKKG/WCSI/WNVI/Oldies 104/Y106
Oldies 105 WQRK/WBIW/WQRJ	WQKC/WXKU
KORN 100.3/QMIX 107.3	WRTV-TV, Channel 6
WAVE	WTHR-TV, Channel 13
WCBK-FM 102.3	WTTS 92.3/WGCL1370
WCLS 97.7	WTTV 4
WFHB 91.3	WVNI-FM, Spirit 95
WFIU 103.7/ 95.1/ 106.1/ 100.7	WXIN-FOX 59

WELLNESS PROGRAM

Outside Recess Weather

- A. **Temperature** – MCCSC uses a temperature range that is considered too cold for outside recess if temp is 18-23 degrees with wind-chill (depending upon location of playground and sunshine).
 Calculation tool for wind chill is found on Department of Education web link
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill/>



- B. **Threatening Weather** – Cancel recess and/or bring students inside in an orderly manner if lightning is spotted or thunder is heard. The sky must be free of thunder and lightning for 30 minutes to be considered clear.