

Winter Weather Closure and Delayed Start Guidelines

When winter weather occurs, the Whitehall School District has a plan. The safety and well-being of our students are paramount so, the District has a comprehensive plan that is executed every time there is consideration of a school closing or a delayed start due to weather conditions. We understand that our decision affects families in a variety of ways. With that in mind, we thought the following information about the decision-making process would be helpful information for Whitehall families.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that in times of challenging weather conditions we make the decision when to open or close schools based on careful consideration of all relevant factors, such as:

1. Weather service information - The district consults with the National Weather Service for updates regarding temperature and road conditions.
2. Temperature and wind chill.
3. Bus company information - Superintendent talks to the transportation department to learn more about road conditions and access to neighborhoods and streets that are more challenging during times of inclement weather.
4. Amount of snow and ice accumulated.
5. Whether snow/ice is continuing.
6. Building conditions - Schools are checked to make sure electricity and heat are working properly.
7. Parking lot and sidewalk conditions - Administrators talk to maintenance staff who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
8. Discussion with city and county officials about snow removal status for city and county roads.
9. Discussion with other school districts.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

The Superintendent makes the final decision to keep schools open, delay start time, or close school during inclement weather. The decision is made based on the factors mentioned above.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

If the district plans to close schools for the day or delay school start due to inclement weather, the decision is made by 6 a.m.

HOW DO WE CONTACT PARENTS?

If the District plans to close schools, delay school start, or limit bus service due to inclement weather, the announcement is immediately posted on the front page of the District website and on the official school social media accounts, including Facebook and Twitter. Parents and staff will receive a text and/or phone call from our automated messaging service, Infinite Campus Messenger, as soon as possible to alert them. If a decision is made in the early morning hours, parents and staff members will receive Infinite Campus Messenger texts and/or phone calls

starting at 6 a.m., though the decision may be posted prior to 6 a.m. Local news outlets are notified, but parents should be aware that the District does not have direct control over how quickly or accurately delayed starts or closings are reported by the media.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS/ATHLETICS/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

If school is not in session, all athletic and extra-curricular activities events including practices will be canceled. The only exception involves teams participating in post-season events in which case the Superintendent will determine how to proceed.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH A 2-HOUR DELAY

All schools will start at 10 am. Breakfast will not be served. There will be no morning athletic practices or before school programs or tutoring.

For middle and high school, classes periods will remain the same length, but 2 class periods will be cut from the day. The periods cut from the day will be rotated in the event of multiple delayed starts. Upon arrival to school, middle and high school students will be told what period to report to.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Generally, once the school day has started, Whitehall Schools will not dismiss early to avoid complications with transportation and childcare arrangements. However, if your schedule allows and if you feel your child will be safer at home, you can pick your child up before the end of the school day.

ABSENCES ON DELAYED START DAYS

If students are snowbound on a day designated as delayed start, their parent must make contact with the school secretary to explain the absence. Principals may grant a Snowbound Absence in which case the absence is excused, and teachers are required to let students make up any and all work. If students are unable to get to school due to a bus route not running, the absence will be designated as Bus Related Absence. This is an excused absence and teachers are required to let students make up any and all work.

ROAD CONDITIONS – SNOW AND ICE:

The following road conditions are considered when determining to keep schools open or to close. They are found in priority order:

1. Streets, state highways or interstate highway in the school district used for bus routes and/or stops.
2. Parking lots of school buildings.
3. Entrances and sidewalks to each school building.
4. Side streets, cul-de-sacs, or streets where bus routes or stops are not located.
5. State highways or interstate not used for bus routes.

DELAYING OR CLOSING SCHOOL DUE TO EXCESSIVE COLD:

Wind Chill in Whitehall	0 to -20	School open
Wind Chill in Whitehall	-21 to -32	School may be open or a delayed start may occur
Wind Chill in Whitehall	Under -32	School will close



Wind Chill Chart



		Temperature (°F)																	
Calm		40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98	

Frostbite Times 30 minutes 10 minutes 5 minutes

$$\text{Wind Chill (°F)} = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})$$

Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph)

Effective 11/01/01