



PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT 202
We prepare learners for the future.

Weather Closures

11/14/2022

Weather Closures - Overview

- While we do our best to keep our schools open whenever possible, there are days when the weather is so severe that it is impossible to ensure our children can get to school safely. Below is a breakdown of how the District makes decisions regarding weather closures, how and when we notify families, and information on make-up days should they be needed. https://www.psd202.org/page/bad_weather

- **Closure Decisions**

When inclement weather is predicted, we begin to assess conditions the day before, with student safety as our number one priority. The variables we consider include the following:

- Local weather forecasts
- Road conditions
- Temperature (-20° F or colder) and Wind Chill (A wind chill of -35° F is dangerous as exposure for more than 20–30 minutes makes skin susceptible to frostbite.) National Weather Service, Illinois Storm Chasers.
- If buses are operating, if drivers are available, and if buses can navigate the roads safely
- If our staff can arrive at school safely
- If our school buildings are functioning properly (e.g., power/ furnaces/heat/water/phones)

- **Communication to Families**

We strive to notify families of a closure as soon as possible.

If a decision can be made the day before a closure, the communication will be sent no later than **9:30 p.m.**

In the event of a day-of closure, a communication will ideally be sent between **5:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.**

Setting these time parameters eliminates the need for families to check emails overnight while still allowing enough time to make childcare arrangements when necessary.

Remote / E-Learning

- Synchronous Day
- Information regarding student expectations for remote instruction on an inclement weather day are on the front page of the district website and link below:
- <https://www.psd202.org/page/e-learning-day>
- Links and additional information will be sent by your child's teacher.



Communications for Weather Closures

Communication to Families

- We strive to notify families of a closure as soon as possible. If a decision can be made the day before a closure, the communication will be sent no later than 9:30 p.m. In the event of a day-of closure, a communication will ideally be sent between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m. Setting these time parameters eliminates the need for families to check emails overnight while still allowing enough time to make childcare arrangements when necessary.
- District uses ConnectEd to send email, phone, and text message alerts to D202 families.
- Bus riders can also log on to the First View app to track their child's bus.
<https://www.firstviewapp.com/>
- ConnectED pulls contact information for these messages from our students' Home Access Center accounts. To ensure you receive these communications, please take a moment to check we have your most updated contact information on file within Home Access Center.
- In the case of inclement weather, the District will notify families through the following channels:
 1. **Emails** will be sent to all families, staff and our Key Communicators email list.
 2. We will post updates on the District **website** homepage.
 3. **Text messages** will be sent to families and staff who have opted-in to receive them.
 4. **Phone calls** will be made to families and staff *only in the event that schools are **closed***.
 5. Phone calls will not be made when a decision is still in progress or the decision has been made that school will be open.
- You may also tune in to local media.

Afterschool Activities

- In the event schools are closed, all afterschool activities scheduled for the day will be canceled. If school is in session and inclement weather is predicted for the afternoon or evening, a communication will be sent to all families as soon as a decision is reached.
- *YMCA* programs at D202 schools are canceled when school is canceled or remote.

School in Session

- If school is to be closed in the middle of the day because of severe weather or another emergency, every attempt will be made to notify families as soon as possible.
- The first priority is the safety of the children and adults at the buildings. Students will be kept at school and will be supervised by District 202 staff until their parents or guardians are able to pick them up or until they are dismissed at the regular end of the school day.
- If it is safe, students will be dismissed in the usual manner (walk, bus, bike, etc.).

Make-Up Days

- In the event schools are closed and a make-up day needs to be made, the District will notify families of a change in the calendar.
- The District prioritizes make-up days in the midst of the regular calendar year to optimize student learning.

The Final Decision – Inclement Weather

- As a parent, you have the best perspective to determine the right course of action for your child based on your family circumstances. On severe weather days, you may decide to transport your child to school or determine that you want to keep your child at home, even if school is in session. We know that your child's safety is your primary concern and will respect whatever decision you make.
- If the parent makes the decision to not send their child to school the absence is excused.