



Cedar Rapids Community School District

Oh, the weather outside is frightful...

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

As we say in Iowa, "If you don't like the weather, stick around another day." Weather conditions can be unpredictable, any time of year. How the schools handle emergency closings and delays, however, should be very predictable. Area school districts have specific procedures we follow in making these decisions. We want you to be aware of these guidelines so you can make plans for your family.

When extreme weather threatens.

- ✧ As early as possible, weather and road condition information is gathered from various sources, including city, county, and state agencies, meteorologists, and through personal inspection by school personnel.
- ✧ The transportation directors for area school districts share information and prepare recommendations for the Superintendents, usually by 5:00 a.m.
- ✧ The Superintendents talk by phone by 5:30 a.m. and determine what announcements will be made.
- ✧ The Community Relations Office of the Cedar Rapids Schools notifies the media of the decision for the Cedar Rapids Community Schools only. Other metro-area districts communicate information independently.

Start, delay or cancel? How we decide.

- ✧ The safety of students and employees is the overriding, deciding factor.
- ✧ We're sensitive to the needs of working parents and try to minimize the time students may be home without supervision.
- ✧ Since school is a safe, supervised setting for children, we try to avoid early dismissals.
- ✧ Completing the required number of school days is a factor but ONLY if it doesn't compromise safety.

Do all area school districts make the same decision?

- ✧ Not always. Sometimes the road conditions in outlying areas vary from those in the city. Sometimes building conditions vary, for example, some districts have all air conditioned schools and others do not.
- ✧ There may be times when one or more schools have a power outage or a problem with heating equipment.

When we delay start times.

- ✧ When information suggests conditions will improve, schools will start two-hours after the normal starting time. (Know your school's start and end times.)
- ✧ When there is a two hour school delay, all morning A.K. (Alternative Kindergarten) and Early Learning Preschool classes are cancelled.
- ✧ Buses pick up students at the regular stops or as close to them as possible.

When we cancel school.

- ✧ All pre-kindergarten through grade 12 programs are included. Five Seasons Day Care decisions are made separately and will be communicated to parents via media and/or phone.

- ✧ Information regarding after-school activities on cancelled or early dismissal days should be obtained from the school office, coach, or advisor. As a general rule, elementary and middle school activities are cancelled.

Why we would decide to dismiss early.

- ✧ We are reluctant to dismiss students early. If at all possible, we will keep them in school with supervision until the regular dismissal time.
- ✧ If very dangerous weather (ice, blizzard, sub-zero temps, extreme heat) develops or unique circumstances (power outage) threaten student safety, we will dismiss early.
- ✧ Early dismissal decisions are made generally by 10:00 a.m. Media will be notified. Five Seasons Day Care and extended day programs make their own decisions which they communicate to parents.
- ✧ Dismissal times may vary depending on conditions.
- ✧ Children normally transported on buses will be returned by bus according to the early dismissal schedule unless other arrangements have been previously made and communicated to the child's school.

What can you do to assure your child's comfort and safety?

- ✧ Superintendents decide whether schools will open. It is always your decision whether you want your child to attend that day.
- ✧ Have alternative child care plans in place that are well understood by your children. If there's an early dismissal, should they go to a neighbor's house? Will a baby-sitter or other approved person pick them up? Do they have a key for home and know how to reach you?
- ✧ Know and post your school's start and end times, including early dismissal times.

If your child's school loses phone service.

- ✧ If phone service goes out in a Cedar Rapids school and you need to get an emergency message to a student, call the District at 558-2249 or 558-2247.

The Cedar Rapids Community School District has a complete Crisis Management Plan that outlines procedures for all types of emergencies and incidents that might occur.

E-Mail and School Messenger Notifications.

In addition to media announcements, District parents and staff are notified of weather-related delay and cancellation information by school phone messenger. Parents and guardians can sign up to receive phone, email and text (optional) messages by setting up an account through the School Messenger Notification System. Community members may sign up to receive information by email. You can access the School Messenger Notification and E-Mail Alert systems at the Alerts and Cancellations link on the District Web site at www.cr.k12.ia.us.