

## School Closing Decisions

It goes without saying that the decision to close schools or have an early dismissal is not an easy one, no matter where you live. The decision to close schools or adjust the schedule because of a present or imminent adverse weather conditions is made with one overriding consideration – the safety of students, staff and parents.

To that end, the following details are part of the decision making process:

- The depth of the snow
- The rate and duration on the snowfall
- The time the snowfall occurs
- The composition of the snowfall
- The wind velocity and visibility
- The variability of temperature before, during, and after the snowfall
- The actual and projected conditions of roadways and pavement in the county
- The efficiency of snow removal and de-icing efforts before, during and after school opening
- The number of students who are transported to school
- The magnitude of notification to all parents/guardians in case of an early release. It is very important that we give proper advance notice to all parents/guardians in the event of an early release. This will insure the children will have a place to arrive to after leaving school, one that may or may not be their home.

It is also important to stress that you, as the parent/guardian, have the right to keep your child home from school on those days you feel it isn't safe to send your child to school. Data validates that the school bus is the safest place for your child to be transported to and from school.

It is very difficult to determine the weather and what may or may not occur at 4:30 a.m. Attempts are made to make the best decision based on the information available at that time.

It is only after all of these conditions are considered that we give the orders to close, delay, or declare an early release from school.

*Please feel free to contact the Superintendent of Schools, Doug Lambert, should you have questions or concerns concerning the closing of schools due to weather conditions.*