

Sheridan Community Schools - Inclement Weather Information

Decisions regarding inclement weather and whether to close school, delay the start of the day, dismiss early, or continue as normal are among the most difficult and stressful decisions we make. At Sheridan Community Schools, the safety of our students and staff is always our top priority.

The decision to delay or close school is made only after carefully considering a number of important factors. Indiana weather can change quickly, fog is always surprising, and road conditions may become hazardous in a short amount of time. At other times, a forecast may not have the duration or impact that was originally expected and the unpredictability of fog can be a challenge. While our preference is always to keep school open and maintain the learning day whenever possible, we will always err on the side of caution when safety is a concern.

Weather conditions are constantly being monitored. Sheridan Community Schools stays alert to the latest forecasts, traffic reports, and communication from local and county road crews as well as emergency management officials. The Transportation Director and I personally drive between 4 and 4:30 am to inspect roads throughout the district, along with sidewalks, parking lots, and bus lanes. In addition to hazardous road conditions and travel obstructions, temperature is often a significant deciding factor.

All decisions are based on district-wide conditions and weather forecasts to help ensure the safety of students and staff across the entire Sheridan Community Schools district. We must consider town, country and neighborhood roads. This means a delay or cancellation may occur even when conditions in one particular neighborhood or area do not appear severe. We encourage all families to remain weather aware and to have a well-communicated plan in place in the event of a delay, early dismissal, or school cancellation.

Parents and guardians always make the ultimate decision for their family. If school is open and you believe conditions are unsafe for travel, you may choose not to send your child(ren) to school. In those situations, students will receive an excused absence. They will not be penalized academically, but they will be expected to make up all missed assignments.

On days when inclement weather is possible, we make every effort to announce a delay decision no later than **5:30 a.m.** and a cancellation decision no later than **7:30 a.m.** if a delay was made first. While this process is never an exact science, we strive to be as consistent and timely as possible. When in doubt, we would rather be too cautious than not cautious enough.

We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and support as we work together through the winter season and as always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.