

North Palos School District 117 Emergency School Closing Plan

The safety and well-being of our students is always our top priority. During the winter season, we carefully consider many factors and consult with various people and resources before making the decision to close school. During wintry conditions including ice, snow and cold temperatures school may remain open if it is determined safe to do so. However, if a parent feels the conditions are not suitable to send his/her child to school, parents are asked to contact the school to alert school staff of this excused absence.

Prior to our decision, we:

- review information available from the National Weather Service regarding temperature, wind chill, and snow/ice accumulation.
- collaborate with our Buildings and Grounds and Transportation Department staff members about any issues that might occur with parking or busing (snow removal status, local road conditions for neighborhoods and streets, etc.).
- review potential changes to the weather forecast during the course of the school day to determine if conditions will improve or worsen
- ensure mechanical systems in schools are working properly (electricity, heat, water, etc.)
- collaborate with other local school district superintendents

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

The superintendent makes the final decision to keep schools open or close school during inclement weather. The decision is made based on the factors mentioned above.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

The decision is made as soon as possible to allow for families to plan accordingly.

HOW DO WE CONTACT PARENTS?

- School Messenger alerts (emails, phone calls, texts)
- District/school website
- Local television and radio stations
- Emergency Closing Center's [website](#)

We will only announce when schools are closed. Announcements are not made when schools remain open. If schools remain open, please be advised that buses may be running late due to weather and traffic.

ATHLETICS/EXTENDED-DAY/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

If school is not in session, all athletic and extra-curricular activities, including practices, may be cancelled. The Buildings and Grounds Department will communicate with all renters.

We are investigating the possibility of implementing a delayed start schedule to utilize as needed. More information to follow.