



Kewaskum Community Schools

The Kewaskum Community Schools ignite a passion for learning.

Inclement Weather Decisions 2015-2016 School Year

Dear Parents:

As school superintendent, it can be challenging to decide whether to close schools (for inclement weather) for the day, especially when it must be based on the best information we have around 5:00 a.m. Soon, Wisconsin weather will provide us with difficult school closing decisions.

How do we make the Weather Related School Closing Decisions?

- We gather as much weather-related information as possible.
- Surrounding area school superintendents are contacted to compare information gained through contacts in the individual school districts.
- We receive information from state, county, and village officials. We focus on road conditions along with both the short- and long-term weather forecasts.
- We obtain information from our bus transportation company regarding their recommendations.
- We discuss with the Building & Grounds Director to ensure parking lots can be plowed timely for safety.

As the superintendents share the information gained with one another, we also look at our own unique circumstances. A partially rural area (like ours) will have roads that may be in a less safe condition. Armed with the information above, we also base our decision on the following extremely important factors that can also be unique to each district and its geographic area:

- Wind velocity impacting the blowing and drifting of snow in more rural areas of our district.
- Buses running routes on a slower pace having an impact on the length of time students may be waiting at bus stops, especially younger students.
- Parents driving their sons/daughters to school in poor driving conditions and high school age students with little driving experience being on the roads.
- Number of inches of projected snowfall.
- If we will have enough bus drivers (their ability to get to work safely is a factor).

If you believe your child would be safer at home in poor weather conditions, your learner's absence will be marked as excused with a phone call to us stating "inclement weather conditions." Likewise, if you are uncomfortable with the weather conditions throughout a poor weather day, we encourage you to use your best judgment, communicate with your school's principal and make the necessary arrangements to pick up your child.

What may appear to be a simple decision includes many components: transportation, communications, before/after school child care in our elementary schools, the timing of the decision involving several decision makers in neighboring school districts, road crews, bus drivers, young drivers, wind and weather. Ultimately, the decision lies with the superintendent and it is, indeed, a difficult one. Like you, my first priority is to ensure the safety of our students. We will never compromise that basic principle when making the decision.

To acquire up-to-date school closing information, please utilize the following resources:

1. View our web page at www.kewaskumschools.org
2. Follow us on [facebook](#).
3. Listen to School Messenger (which comes to your phone) in its entirety.
4. Watch TV Channel WISN (12) and WTMJ (4).
5. Listen to WBKV (1470 AM and 92.5 FM) or WTMJ (620 AM and 94.5 FM) WKLH (96.5 FM), The Hog (102.9 FM), Jammin' (98.3 FM), or Smooth Jazz (106.9 FM).

Sincerely,

James Smasal
Superintendent