City of Chicopee

CHICOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Richard W. Rege, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents:

As we prepare for the coming of winter, I would like to inform you of the procedures that will be used by the Chicopee Public Schools to govern the closing or delay of school on days when the weather makes traveling for students dangerous.

It is the practice in the Chicopee Public Schools to take the least drastic action necessary to adjust to weather conditions. The following situations may occur:

1. **Two-Hour Delay** - A two-hour delayed opening allows for snow removal and traffic clearance after evening snowfall or during relatively light storms. In the event of a two-hour delay, there will be no AM preschool. Please stay tuned for school messages following a delayed opening announcement in case of worsening conditions warranting school closing.
2. **School Closure** - Schools will be closed due to storms severe enough that safe paths to school cannot generally be maintained.
3. **Early Dismissal** - Early Dismissal is done only in the event of an unanticipated emergency. On the rare occasion when an emergency dismissal is necessary, announcements will be made on television and made using the *Blackboard Connect* telephone service. Utmost caution will be exercised by school staff in the event of an early dismissal. Please know that in these instances school staff will remain at school until safe travel is provided for all students. **Please be sure your family has contingency plans for children sent home due to an early dismissal.**

During each storm that arises, I begin checking road conditions by 4:30 a.m. in order to determine the City's readiness to hold school. I also check-in with the Police, Department of Public Works, transportation companies, and area cities to determine our readiness to hold school. If the schedule is to be altered, I will attempt to make announcements on the television (40-WGGB, 22-WWLP, 3-WSHM), the Chicopee Public Schools website (http://www.chicopeeps.org) and over the *Blackboard Connect* telephone service as early as possible but no earlier than 5:00 am on days of questionable weather. Our judgment in those circumstances will be based on the best information available at that time about road conditions throughout the area. Should you believe that conditions in your neighborhood require that your child remain out of school for a longer period of time, please feel free to make that decision for your own family. There will be no penalty if you keep your child out of school for reasonable reasons of safety.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Rege, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

The Chicopee Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability in admission to, access to, employment in or treatment in its programs and activities.