



EAST RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Board of Education

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the colors of the Autumn leaves will all too soon give way to another East Rutherford winter, I thought of it as an opportunity in time to overview the procedures we have in place to address inclement weather as it pertains to school delays and closings.

Several important factors are taken into consideration when the cancellation of schools (or delaying the start of school day) is in question. The first of these factors is, of course, travel safety due to ice and snow.

The factors we look at with regards to ice/snow are:

- the safety of students who require bus or automobile transportation to/from school
- the safety of students whose primary transportation mode is to walk to school
- the ability of teachers and staff who commute via automobile to do so in a safe manner, and
- the ability of our maintenance/custodial staff to sufficiently clear sidewalks and parking lots.

The second major issue of consideration during inclement weather is wind chill. Whether it is students waiting for a school bus or walking to/from school, wind chill is always a major factor in the closing/delay of schools.

During mornings of snow, ice or extreme cold, the South Bergen Jointure Commission District Superintendents are in touch with each other, our bus companies, and police department to determine whether or not our schools should be closed. It is usually a decision that is made jointly among the Superintendents. These messages are communicated to the public, generally before 6:15 am. Announcements of closings/delays are made to local television via our participation in the Fios1 News Emergency Closing Information and New Jersey 12 News Emergency Closing System.

Please remember you can also access emergency closing information on our district website at www.erboe.net where winter weather notices will appear on the front page of our website in bold red print. The district website, app, and Twitter feed will usually be the first accessible mode of communication for parents and staff. Finally, we will also utilize our emergency call system again this school year, in which parents will be contacted via email, text message and phone messages.

I hope as the weather outside begins to get colder that you and your child(ren) continue to have a warm and positive school year experience.

Sincerely,

Giovanni A. Giancaspro
Superintendent of Schools