



PPS prepares for 2009-10 weather emergencies

The recent blast of blustery weather is a reminder that winter is on its way. For Portland Public Schools, that may mean school delays and closures.

When bad weather hits, the district gives primary consideration to the safety of students and staff in determining if schools should remain open or closed. Although school closures are difficult for all of us, safety is the most important thing.

The district has two options in the event of bad weather: Delay school openings for two hours or close schools altogether. Before a decision is made, district officials consult with local meteorologists, transportation officials and district staff in the field. The district is committed to making a decision as early as possible and communicating it quickly to families, the media and our Web site. In the event of a two-hour late start, schools may still close for the day if the weather does not improve.

As soon as a decision is made, an automated phone call is sent to families with the latest information. Also, local radio and television stations broadcast closure and delay information. For the most up-to-date information online, go to **www.pps.k12.or.us**.

The district may close or delay schools at higher elevations while keeping schools at lower elevations open. For example, Skyline, West Sylvan and Forest Park might open two hours late with all other schools opening on time.

For school delay and closure information in the event of weather emergencies:

- Go to **www.pps.k12.or.us** or **www.publicalerts.org**
- Tune in to your local television or radio station.

This year, the Board of Education has built into the 2009-10 calendar up to three replacement days in the event of school closures.

Listed on the back are options and explanations in the event of winter weather. More information on the decision-making process and school bus snow routes is available on the PPS Web site at **www.pps.k12.or.us**. If you have other questions, call 503-916-6901.

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Message	Definition
PPS and offices closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PPS schools and buildings closed. • All staff and students stay home. • All before- and after-school programs canceled.
PPS schools closed: Central office open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PPS schools closed. • Students and school staff stay at home. • Central office staff reports.
PPS schools closed: Faculty and staff report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PPS schools closed. • School and central office faculty and staff report.
Individual school closures	In the event of individual school closures, those schools will be identified.
PPS schools two hours late: Buses on snow routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students report to school two hours later than normal. • All schools and buildings open. • All buses on snow routes all day. • Before-school programs canceled. • AM kindergarten canceled • PM and midday classes open without transportation. • After-school programs open without transportation.
PPS schools two hours late	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students report to school two hours later than normal. • All schools and buildings open. • Before school programs canceled. • AM kindergarten canceled. • PM and midday classes open without transportation. • After-school programs open without transportation.
Individual schools two hours late	In the event of individual school delays, those schools will be identified.
PPS open: Buses on snow routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students report at regular time. • All PPS schools and buildings open. • All buses on snow routes all day. • After-school and extended programs open without transportation.