

Weather Related Closing & Delays

The following information is provided to help parents understand how the District makes the determination to cancel or delay the opening of school on bad weather days. In addition, it details the notification procedures utilized to inform parents of weather related school schedule changes. Please note student and staff safety is our first priority. The decision to cancel school is significant and is only made after thorough consideration. If the decision is made to cancel school or to start late, the announcement will be communicated via the Abilene ISD website as well as local radio and television stations. The district will also utilize its automated notification system. **If there is no announcement, assume schools will open as usual.**

Will School be Closed Today?

When the threat or condition of extreme weather exists, Abilene ISD officials will utilize road condition assessments provided by the Abilene Police Department in order to determine if school will be held as scheduled. The decision regarding school closure or a late start will be made by approximately 6:00 a.m. When inclement weather conditions exist, parents are advised to listen for announcements regarding school schedules on local radio or television stations as well as check the Abilene ISD website. Each media outlet will be contacted and informed of any decision affecting school schedules by approximately 6 a.m. If you contact the schools, you will get a recording if a decision has been made to cancel or delay the opening of school. Campus administrators who can safely reach the campus will be at the school to make sure students are not dropped off in the event a parent does not receive notification of the school closing. For safety and security purposes, parents should never drop off or leave their children unattended.

When inclement weather occurs, the following are considered before closing or delaying the opening of schools:

- the safety of students, staff and parents
- the potential disruption caused in the home when school is cancelled or delayed
- the impact on instruction of students
- the decisions of neighboring districts

If school is delayed it could be for up to three hours beyond the regular start time. Once the decision is made to delay the opening of school, buses will run on a similarly delayed schedule. For example, if the school start time is delayed two hours, students will need to be at their bus stop two hours later than their regular time.

In the event the decision is made to delay the opening of school, District officials will continue to monitor weather conditions and consult with the Abilene Police Department regarding current road conditions. If conditions do not improve, the District may ultimately decide to cancel school for the day. The decision to close schools in lieu of starting late will be made as early as possible so parents can make appropriate plans for their children. Parents should continue to monitor the news and the District website in these situations. The District will also utilize its automated notification system.

After school and evening activities: If school has been cancelled for the day, the assumption is that there will not be any after-school or evening activities unless otherwise communicated. If conditions improve greatly and an activity is scheduled with another district, the activity potentially could go on as scheduled. If conditions deteriorate during the day or the threat of inclement weather becomes more likely, the District may modify or cancel after-school and evening activity schedules. Any changes in after school or evening activities will be posted on the District website and other methods of communication available to Abilene ISD.

Note: Abilene ISD does not typically release school early due to the threat of weather. **However, parents may pick their children up from school if they believe it is in their family's best interest.** Even if weather conditions were to deteriorate during the day, elementary students will likely be released at the regular time. It is possible secondary schools could be released as early as 1:00 p.m. Therefore, we recommend you have a plan in place in the event circumstances necessitate an early release of secondary students. All information regarding an early release will be posted on our website and the automated notification system will be utilized as well.

Media Announcements

Staff and students are advised to listen to local radio and television stations for current news about inclement weather school closings or delays of any nature. Announcements will be made on area radio and television stations including

Radio Stations		Radio Stations		Television Stations
KEAN	FM 105.1	KULL	FM 100.7	KRBC
KEYJ	FM 107.9	KHXS	FM 102.7	KTAB
KBCY	FM 99.7	KACU	FM 89.7	KTXS
KGNZ	FM 88.1	KWKC	AM 1340	KXVA
KCDD	FM 103.7	KSLI	AM 1470	
KMWX	FM 92.5	KYYW	AM 1280	