

2016-17
SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOLS
EMERGENCY WEATHER PROCEDURES

The school district cannot guarantee the safety of road conditions at any time. The district administration makes the decision whether or not to operate schools. Parents must make the decision whether or not to send their children to school during bad weather conditions.

When ice or snow causes hazardous driving conditions, the district will operate schools only when roads are safe. School officials begin checking road conditions in the evening before if needed and about 4:00 a.m. on the school day in question. Many times, however, conditions cannot be determined until two to three hours later because snow or ice often occurs at daybreak. When possible, a decision will be made early - usually before 6:00 a.m. Once a decision is made, we notify radio and TV stations, and their announcements are usually aired immediately and during their news. The announcement is usually repeated frequently until the normal time for school to begin. **Our district will also use our Rapid Alert system and new phone app to notify parents as soon as a decision is made. Our district will also use our webpages, Facebook, and Twitter. Employees are also notified by e-mail.**

If a decision to close schools cannot be made by 5:30 a.m., a school opening may be delayed for an hour or more. If a school opening time is delayed, our staff may not be at the schools until the announced time. Therefore, students may not be brought to school until the announced opening time.

When the district and schools close due to weather conditions, students and parents are requested to help school personnel and the local radio/TV stations to communicate accurate information as early and as quickly as possible. The radio and TV station staff are anxious to cooperate with the schools in making these announcements.

A. GENERAL DISTRICT PLAN:

1. District officials will request that local radio and TV stations broadcast the decision no later than 6:00 a.m. The district will also announce via our new phone app, webpages, Facebook, and Twitter.
2. District officials will request that the media make announcements as often as possible. Students, parents, and other interested persons are asked not to telephone school personnel so the district may have the telephone lines open so that those employees responsible for making the decision can communicate with each other. In past weather emergencies, our announcements of a decision have been hampered because of excessive telephone calls.