



Greenville City Schools

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DATE: December 14, 2009

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Bill Brown
Kim Gass
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Phillip Graham
Ron Metcalfe

FROM: Lyle C. Ailshie, Director of Schools

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL CLOSING/DELAY**

Winter is now upon us, and each year the weather provides plenty of excitement. The decision to close schools or delay opening is sometimes a difficult one to make, but can be aided by having an effective plan in place.

When bad weather occurs, we will make every effort to announce our plans for the day by 6:00 a.m. Unfortunately, a one- or two-hour delay in opening may be necessary to give additional time for streets to improve or to study the weather a little longer.

The following are the procedures we will follow:

Closings and/or Delays

Step 1:

Phillip Graham, Operations Supervisor, will notify me at approximately 4:00 a.m. if there is any question regarding weather conditions. At that time, he will begin to examine streets. The police department, emergency management agency, weather bureau(s), highway patrol, and others will be contacted as deemed necessary.

Step 2:

If Phillip reports a concern regarding streets

*"Only the best . . .
but getting better"*

and/or parking lots, they will call me by 5:00 a.m. At that time, we will convene at the Central Office. (Phone communication may be substituted for this meeting as appropriate or necessary.)

Step 3:

Our options will normally be to close for the day or to open one or two hours late; late openings will be subject to review at 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. prior to buses beginning their routes.

Step 4:

If possible, principals are expected to arrive at schools as usual to check for students that may have been dropped off by parents who didn't hear the news or to help coordinate delay or closing activities. Principals should have to be at the school for only a couple of hours if school is called off for the day.

Early Dismissal

Step 1:

A decision will be made as quickly as possible in order to ensure the safety of the children, parents, and staff.

Step 2:

When possible, a thirty-minute notice will be given to the transportation department to give time for drivers to reach their buses and begin routes.

Step 3:

As soon as a decision is made, schools and media outlets will be notified. Parents will be informed that children may be picked up before buses run. High school students that drive will be dismissed immediately.

Step 4:

Elementary students will be picked up and taken home first by the buses. Following elementary routes, middle school and high school routes will be run.

Notes:

- A.) Decisions about early dismissal and the "next day" will be made as soon as possible and announced; please encourage parents and staff to check the radio, TV stations, or our web site rather than call the school or central office. Decisions will be released to the media as soon as they are made.
- B.) In order to prepare the public for school closing or delayed opening,

please include the following information in one of your newsletters to parents.

1. Greeneville City Schools closing and delayed opening information may be heard on any of the following radio and television stations (the information will also be posted on our web site):

RADIO	Frequency	City
WGRV/WSMG	1340/1450 AM	Greeneville
WIKQ	103.1 FM	Greeneville
WJCW/WQUT	910 AM/101.5 FM	Johnson City
TELEVISION		
WBIR	CH 10	Knoxville
WJHL	CH 11	Johnson City
WCYB	CH 5	Bristol
WATE	CH 6	Knoxville

2. The school system's emergency notification system (SchoolCast) will be used to notify employees and parents of closings, delays, and dismissals as an additional method of communication.
 3. Parents are reminded that when schools are on a one or two hour delay, there is a possibility that school could still be called off for the entire day. Therefore, parents should not drop children off at school until the appropriate starting time.
 4. On days when students are released early, decisions may require immediate action; therefore, parents are asked to have a plan in place so that children know where to be delivered by bus or who will be picking them up. This will alleviate concern on the part of the children and allow school phone lines to remain open for emergencies.
 5. Parents should note that when school is dismissed early due to bad weather, elementary bus routes will be run first. Middle and high school routes will be run as soon as elementary routes are complete. However, high school students that drive will be dismissed as soon as the early dismissal decision is made.
- C.) When the Central Office is open on snow days, staff members will be expected to report to work. Employees may choose to take vacation or

personal days. Central Office staff should consider the office open unless the public announcement specifically says the office is closed.

- D.) Essential staff (maintenance, custodial) will report on all days, if at all possible. Phillip Graham will make the decision. Their major work will be to do whatever is needed to reopen schools as soon as possible (sidewalks, parking lots, check heating systems, etc.).
- E.) In most cases, the Extended School Program (ESP) will not be altered by weather. Jennifer Phillips will provide additional information to principals. Efforts will be made to include ESP status as a part of the public announcements.
- F.) Days missed for snow will not be made up until all "stockpiled" days are used.

LCA/meh

GREENEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Employee Procedures
For
Closings Due to Weather

Staff Classification	School Closed Central Office Open	School Closed Central Office Closed
Central Office Staff	Report on regular schedule	Do not report to work unless instructed by Director of Schools.
System Maintenance	Report on regular schedule	Operations Supervisor will report at the regular time unless instructed otherwise by the Director. Other maintenance will report at the discretion of the Supervisor.
School Administration	Report to work as usual Abbreviated work schedule	On-Call Report as Needed
Day Porters	Report on regular schedule	On-Call Report as Needed
Night Porters	Report at 8:00 a.m. for regular shift	On-Call Report as Needed

All Central Office Staff, System Maintenance, School Administrators, and Day Porters report to work as usual on delayed opening schedule. All teachers and school staffs will also report to work at the regular time on a delayed opening schedule as circumstances permit.