

Hartford Area Schools & Districts

Emergency School Closing Procedures

October 2024

Dear Hartford Area Schools Families, Students, and Staff:

The winter season will soon be upon us, and we in the Hartford Area Schools understand that our decision to keep open or to close a school in bad weather has a significant effect on families. We also believe you know what is best for your child. If you believe they would be safer at home and should not attend school in poor weather conditions, or if you are uncomfortable with the weather conditions at any point during an unfavorable weather day, we would encourage you to act upon that belief. Should this happen, communicate with your appropriate school or district administrator and make the necessary arrangements.

Please be advised the following information is considered to open or close school due to inclement weather:

- Information from city, county, and state officials focused on road conditions and short and long-term weather forecasts
- Information from our bus transportation provider, including their recommendations, focused on road safety for buses
- Discussion with our supervisor of buildings and grounds to ensure parking lots can be open for parking before and after the school day
- Information from the National Weather Service provided directly to school district officials

In addition, the Hartford Area Administrators across all five public school districts and our parochial schools, work collaboratively to open or close a school in bad weather. We consider the information from the above paragraph and the following factors:

- Temperature, including, extreme cold warning, freeze warning (please note new NWS language)
- Wind velocity impacting the blowing and drifting of snow
- Buses running routes at a slower pace and having an impact on how long students wait at bus stops
- Parents/guardians driving their children to school in poor driving conditions, and high school students with little or no experience in poor road conditions driving to school
- The number of inches of existing and projected snowfall

Please note Hartford Area Schools typically will not implement late starts or early dismissals due to inclement weather. For a variety of reasons, including travel where students are still impacted by less than ideal road conditions, the shared bus routes across the districts, and the impact it has on student and parent schedules, we have not found a late start or early dismissal to be a great solution. While there may be situations where we do consider these options, please know it is not something we normally feel is in the best interests of our students across the Hartford area.

Lastly, we want to assure you any decision we make is made with a focus on the safety of our students and staff. In recent years, we have received feedback about the conditions where certain individuals live, and while we fully respect these individual perspectives, please know our responsibility is to care for *all* of our district's students no

matter where they reside. Conditions in the recent past have looked different at various points of the day, or across the 225 square miles of the Hartford area. Please keep in mind that as parents/guardians, you ultimately have the ability to determine whether or not your student will be in attendance if school is not closed.

Besides the media listed in this letter, each public school district and private school may use additional means of communication to notify parents/guardians and students of school closings (e.g. ParentSquare, Skyward, Facebook). It is very important to ensure your contact information remains updated in our Student Information System throughout the year in order to get the most timely and accurate information to you. To acquire up-to-date school closing information, districts may utilize the following media resources:

- **FOX 6 News:** www.fox6now.com
- **WISN TV 12:** www.wisn.com
- **WTMJ TV 4:** www.tmj4.com
- **CBS 58** www.cbs58.com
- **WTMJ 620 AM:** www.wtmj.com
- **WTKM 1540 AM/104.9 FM:** www.wtkm.com

As always, thank you for partnering in your child's education!

Sincerely,

Joannie Kalina
District Administrator
Erin School District
www.erinschool.org

Jeffrey A. Walters
Superintendent
Hartford Union High School
www.huhs.org

Katy Williams
District Administrator
Holy Hill Area School District
www.hhasd.org

Christopher Nesemann
District Administrator
HNR School District
www.hnrschools.org

Sherman Carstensen
Principal
Peace Lutheran School
www.peacehartford.org

Tara Villalobos, PhD
District Administrator
School District of Hartford Jt. 1
www.hjt1.org

Kimberly Lestina
Principal
St. Gabriel Catholic School
www.sgabriel.org

Jen Trimberger
Principal
St. Kilian School
www.stkiliancong.org