

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

It shall be the policy of the Hardy County Board that schools are open for scheduled instruction unless a condition exists which may endanger the life or welfare of the students or staff.

Schools may be closed by proper authorities because of conditions of weather, or any other calamitous cause over which the Hardy County Board of Education has no control.

The Superintendent, or his/her designee(s), in the absence of the Superintendent, shall have authority to close any or all schools within the county in accordance with the provisions of this policy and West Virginia law.

PROCEDURES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Transportation Director shall gather information about weather and road conditions from the Department of Highways, bus drivers, principals, and others as he/she sees fit. When dangerous road conditions arise during the night, the Superintendent, or in his/her absence the designee(s), shall make the decision to exercise one of the following options.

1. Close Some or all schools for the day.
2. Delay the opening of school for two hours/3 hours.
3. Operate school as usual.
4. Operate with snow route designation.
5. Hold a non-traditional instructional day if available

If school is to be closed or delayed, an announcement will be made on designated radio and TV stations that serve Hardy County, sent out through the county's designated call/communication system and other appropriate means of communication. Information will also be posted on the county and West Virginia Department of Education websites <http://wvde.state.wv.us>, <http://www.hardycountyschools.com>.

Bus drivers shall not make a run or part of a run if the bus driver feels it would be unsafe to do so. In cases where a specific bus run or part of a run is not being made, even though schools generally are open, it shall be the responsibility of the bus driver to notify the parents and/or guardians of the students affected and the Transportation Director as soon as possible.

EMPLOYEE WORK SCHEDULE – SCHOOLS CLOSED/DELAYED

Weather conditions make travel difficult or schools closed for other reasons:

Custodial and maintenance employees will be notified by their supervisors as to if/when they report. Central office employees, principals, and secretaries, may, depending on conditions, be directed by the Superintendent to report on regular or alternate work schedule.

When schools are delayed for 2 or 3 hours: Custodial, maintenance personnel, central office employees, and principals may be directed by their direct supervisor to report on a regular or delayed schedule, depending on the weather conditions or cause for delay. All other employees are to report at the time indicated by their direct supervisor.

When schools are dismissed early: Custodial and maintenance employees work their regular or alternative work schedule. Principals and secretaries, work until buses have completed their runs (approximately 60 minutes). Those employees who have late bus duty or their duty would require them to remain in school shall be dismissed when the duty is complete. All other employees are dismissed when schools are dismissed. Central office personnel may be directed by the Superintendent to be dismissed early depending on the weather conditions or cause for the dismissal.

Additional Considerations:

Faculty Senate meetings on days schools are closed due to inclement weather or other causes: If time for a Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for a day in which schools are closed due to inclement weather or other causes, the Faculty Senate may meet as regularly scheduled or may be rescheduled at another time at the discretion of the Faculty Senate Chair Person. However, makeup time will not be rescheduled in the school calendar for the Faculty Senate day missed.

Alternate work schedules: In the event of prolonged school or central office closing due to disasters or other emergency conditions, personnel may be requested to perform employment related tasks. Alternate sites may be utilized. This may include working from home.

Extracurricular Activities: When schools are closed all co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, including, but not limited to, athletic contests and practices scheduled for that day and evening are canceled. The Superintendent, upon the recommendation of the school principal, shall have authority to approve exceptions to this provision in circumstances where conditions permit safe travel and occupancy of facilities.

SOURCE: Board of Education Minutes

DATE: August 20, 1979 - August 16, 1993 – June 9, 1997 – December 11, 2000 – June 9, 2003 – January 18, 2011 – June 12, 2023

LEGAL REFERENCE: West Virginia Code §18-4-10- §18A-5-2