WINTER WEATHER PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

DRYDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Snow Days: The District has three snow days built into this year's calendar. If we need more than three snow days this year, an additional day will be taken from an upcoming break. NYS mandates a certain amount of instructional minutes per day and our federal and state funding streams are tied to ensuring compliance with this regulation.

What is the priority during winter weather? Safety. We believe that a safe, joyful learning environment promotes learning and growth.

What happens behind the scenes when Winter Weather is forecasted for the District?

1. The Superintendent coordinates with the Transportation Director and Facilities and Security Director to ensure adequate precautions and preparations are being made in advance of the weather. The trio monitors the weather forecasts on NOAA.com, on FLXweather.com, and other local forecasts as well as closely monitors the meteorologists' confidence in the forecast.
2. In addition, the Superintendent coordinates with the other administrators and supervisors as needed to ensure we make a safe and informed decision about school.
3. The Superintendent and the Transportation Director are in communication with the other Districts in the region as well as the local Highway Departments and coordinating decisions with each other in the hours before an event.
4. If the timing of a winter weather event happens toward the end of the school day or is forecasted for the evening, the Superintendent will be in communication with the Athletic Director regarding contests and practices scheduled for that night as well as other events scheduled for the evening.
5. If winter weather is forecasted for the overnight hours or early morning hours, the Superintendent and Transportation Supervisor begin communicating with each other, neighboring Districts, and local Highway Departments at approximately 4:30 AM. Through this communication a consensus is reached about what is the safest course of action for the school day based on what is happening at the moment, what is forecasted to happen, and what are the current conditions on the roadways in our three county, 110 square mile school district.

When will we be notified of a Weather Closure or a Weather Delay? The District is committed to notifying staff, students and families of what the plan is for the day and communicating between 6:00 AM and no later (if possible) than 6:30 AM.

Will we be notified if school is open? If you have not heard from the District between 6:45 and 7:00 AM via a notification on the District's app, through the District's live feed on the District's website, through the District's official social media feeds on Instagram and Facebook @DrydenLionPride, or via text, voice call, voicemail, or email through Thrillshare by Apptegy, you should assume school is open and on time.

Will we be notified the evening before if school is closed the following day? The District will rarely make a decision the evening before about the following day. Why? We live in Central New York where weather forecasts change frequently and can be unpredictable and highly localized. If we call a snow day before the weather has materialized and the event passes us by, we have wasted a snow day that could potentially cause the District to have to make up for that by taking a day from February Break or Spring Break, etc.

What if we do not use all of our snow days? If the District does not use all of its snow days it can "give back" days. If the District does this, it is tied to the Memorial Day Weekend and we will inform staff, families, and students of this change to the calendar on May 1.

What if school is open, but I do not feel like it is safe for my child to attend? A parent can make a decision independent of the District. If you do not send your child to school, because you feel it is too dangerous due to winter weather, we understand that. However, your child will be expected to make up their schoolwork for that day.

What other options does the District have when dealing with Winter Weather in addition to Snow Days?

1. The District can choose to do a 1 hour delay. This means that school will start one hour later than normal which means your child(ren) will be picked up at their bus stop one hour later than normal. Breakfast and lunch will be served.
2. The District can choose to do a 2 hour delay. This means that school will start two hours later than normal which means your child(ren) will be picked up at their bus stop two hours later than normal. A modified breakfast and a full lunch will be served.
3. The District can choose to do a Bus Advisory. This means the bus will stop for students in the Village that normally walk and give those students a ride to school. It also means that students can wait inside while looking out the window of their home until they see the bus drive up or into the neighborhood instead of waiting at the bus stop.
4. The District can choose to cancel all Afternoon and Evening Activities. This means that everyone PK-12 needs to go home at dismissal.
5. The District can choose to have an Indoor Recess Day. This means recess will be held inside.

What if my child attends the YWCA Child Care Program at Cassavant Elementary School and the District is delayed, closed, or cancels after school activities? Please contact the YWCA directly for more information about what it plans to do with the program in these situations.

What if my child attends the Before and After School Program at Dryden Elementary School and the District is delayed, closed or cancels after school activities? If the District is delayed one or two hours, then the program will open one or two hours late and you can drop your child off one or two hours later than you normally would. If the District is closed, the program is closed. If the District cancels after school activities, then the After School Program at DES will be closed and all students will need to be picked up or take the bus home or to alternate child care arrangements.

