

# **Frequently Asked Questions About Weather-Related Delays & Closures in Littleton Public Schools**

## **How are decisions made about weather-related school closures?**

*The decision to close school, delay the start of school, or to release school early because of weather conditions is based on one factor: the safety of all students and staff.*

Littleton Public Schools makes every effort to announce delay and closure information before 6:30 a.m. But, the process leading up to these decisions actually begins the night before. Transportation and operations personnel as well as the superintendent are out driving the roads in the district and consulting with various weather services as early as 2 a.m. As much information as possible is gathered from the following agencies prior to making a decision:

- Private weather forecasting services;
- Colorado Department of Transportation;
- Local and state law enforcement agencies; and
- Transportation officials across the metro area.

Unsafe road conditions due to snow and ice are certainly factors in making a determination, but they are not the only ones. Temperature is also taken into consideration. Extreme temperatures are unsafe for everyone, especially children who must wait at bus stops or walk to school.

## **When are decisions made about school closures?**

Typically, the decision to delay or cancel can be made before 5 a.m., and appropriate announcements are made through the district website and local media between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m.

## **How can I make sure my student is safe?**

Parents always have the right and the responsibility to do what is best for their children. The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at the parents' discretion and the school understands and respects the decision.

Parents are urged to make arrangements at the beginning of each school year for their children in case of school closures and to plan for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or another circumstance. Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home and how to contact parents and guardians. Parent contact information, including work telephone numbers, should be kept up-to-date with the school. If you are instructed to pick up your student at a location other than their school due to a school closure, you will be asked to present photo ID before the student will be released.

## **What about school bus transportation when the weather is bad?**

In bad weather, buses may run late for a variety of reasons. Prepare your child, in suitable clothing, to wait additional time at the bus stop, (usually less than 15 minutes). District transportation staff work very hard to pick up all students on time, but sometimes road conditions and traffic makes this difficult. *We ask that parents and their children be prepared for buses to run late on inclement weather days.* We also encourage parents to discuss with their children what to do and who to call if the bus does not arrive.