



Administrative Offices
www.wayneschools.com
Phone: (973) 633-3000

Winter Closings & Early Dismissals

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the winter season approaches, we understand that our decision to close schools, have a delayed opening or an early dismissal has serious consequences for families. As a general principle, we believe that students are better served by remaining in school. However, our need to make these decisions is always driven by safety.

Who makes the decision?

The superintendent is responsible for the final decision based upon the information shown below.

How is the decision made?

Our decision to close schools or alter school schedules due to inclement weather is based on an analysis of current and projected data from the National Weather Service, along with the following:

- Current road conditions from local police and our transportation staff. We must consider our school-bus routes, and the most dangerous roads in our Township.
- The fact that all of our 1,200 employees and many of our students drive to school.
- The amount of snow/ice on the ground and the projected forecast.
- The condition of our buildings, the availability of power, the ability to maintain clear walkways and parking areas.
- The temperature and wind chill, considering many students walk or wait for a bus.
- Continually updated report/predictions from the National Weather Service.
- Shared information from surrounding school districts.

How are parents & staff notified?

All school closings, delayed openings or early dismissal notices will be delivered to parents/guardians and staff via our Phone Home Notification System. Therefore, it is essential that each school has an accurate, current home and cell phone number for each parent/guardian.

Please notify your child's school administration of any phone number changes.

Our primary objective is to ensure that during an emergency call of any type, we are able to reach each parent/guardian for every student. To this end, **emergency calls are delivered to every home and cell phone number** that we have in our data-base for **each** parent/guardian.

When are these decisions made?

Decisions for school closings or delayed openings are made very early, typically at 4 or 5 a.m. Once we make this decision, the calls must be delivered early. If we delay too long, we will not be able to notify TV and radio stations or parents and teachers who may have already left for work.

What about Early Dismissals?

If we open schools or have a delayed opening, there is the possibility that the forecast will change or conditions will worsen to the point where we must send students and staff home.

This is an important decision since, at all costs, we must avoid the possibility that younger students will be returning to an unsupervised home or have no one to pick them up from school.

We will make every attempt to provide adequate notice using our Home Notification System. This call will typically be made about 10 or 11 a.m. ***It is imperative that you have pre-made plans in place with a family member or a neighbor should we have an early dismissal.***

- Students who walk to school will be dismissed to go home, provided conditions are safe for them to leave the school building.
- Students who ride on a school bus will be supervised by staff and/or administration until such time that transportation can be provided. *(Again, for younger students, have a pre-determined plan in place for someone to be home to receive these students)*

While we use our best professional judgment and common sense, there is no perfect system or perfect decision. As parents/guardians, your judgment should prevail if you feel that weather conditions warrant keeping your child home.

Where else can I find this information?

- When **any** Home Notification Alert is sent out, the information is simultaneously posted on the district’s official web site www.wayneschools.com.
- Local Cable Channel 77
- TV: News 12 New Jersey, Fox 5 News
- Radio: WOR 710 AM, WCBS 880 AM, WGHT 1500 AM
- Wayne School Switchboard: 973-633-3000 (option 1 – school status)

The procedures that we use are to make the best decision possible, based on the totality of information available, for our 8,000 children and our employees regarding closings, delayed openings and early dismissals.

Office of the Superintendent

District-Wide Daily Schedules				
School	Regular Day	Delayed Opening	Emergency Dismissal	Minimal Day
Grades 1-5	8:55-3:20	10:25-3:20	8:55-1:15	8:55-1:15
A.M. Kindergarten	8:55-11:35	10:25-1:05	8:55- 11:35	8:55-11:35
P.M. Kindergarten	12:40-3:20	12:40-3:20	Cancelled	10:35-1:15
A.M. Preschool	8:20-10:55	9:50-11:50	8:20-10:55	8:20-9:55
P.M. Preschool	12:10-2:45	12:45-2:45	Cancelled	10:55-12:30
Full Day Preschool	8:20-2:45	9:50- 2:45	8:20-12:30	8:20-12:30
High Schools	7:20–2:16	8:50–2:16	7:20-12:03	7:20-12:03
Middle Schools	8:00-2:45	9:30-2:45	8:00-12:40	8:00-12:40
Elem. Extended Day	7:15-6:00	8:45-6:00	PM Cancelled	7:15–6:00