

## District 34 Inclement Weather Information

Antioch CCSD 34 puts student and staff safety first, which is why the district takes several factors into consideration when determining whether to close schools due to extreme weather. The following are factors that will be considered when making school closure decisions. Invariably, there will be situations that do not fit in these guidelines. In these cases, the administration will do its best to provide cancellation information to families as quickly and as early as possible.

### If Schools ARE Closed:

If school is closed, the district will determine whether it is calling an e-Learning day or an emergency day (traditional “snow day”). The timing of the notification will play a role in determining the type of day that is being taken, in addition to other factors. Details regarding e-Learning days will be sent in a different communication.

### If Schools are NOT Closed:

If school is not cancelled and a parent/guardian feels their child is safer at home, they reserve the right to keep them home. Keeping a child home due to weather will be recorded as an excused absence on the student’s record so long as the parent/guardian reports the absence in a timely manner and indicates that “weather” is the reason for the absence.

### Considerations for Closing Schools:

- Temperature
  - The National Weather Service predicts wind chills of -25 degrees.
  - The National Weather Service predicts actual air temperatures in the negative double digits.
- Snow Days
  - Heavy snow or icy conditions overnight.
  - Heavy snow or icy conditions during typical travel times.
  - Heavy snow or icy conditions that continue or worsen during the day.
- Other Considerations
  - Blowing snow with winds greater than 20 miles per hour, reducing visibility, especially during typical times of travel.
  - Status/conditions of streets and sidewalks.
  - Ability of buses to travel due to extreme cold or unplowed streets.
  - Power or phone outages.

### Timeline for Communication:

- The district will aim to make school closure decisions by 9:00 p.m. the night before if weather predictions are overwhelmingly consistent with our cancellation considerations; we will make and communicate earlier whenever possible. Unforeseen or worsening conditions may result in a morning cancellation; however, the district will aim to make those decisions by 5:00 a.m.
- All after-school activities in the district, including sports and evening events, will be cancelled on days when school is cancelled; unless otherwise communicated.
- On days when school has already begun and conditions appear to be worsening, the district will decide by 1 p.m. whether after-school activities will be cancelled for the day and/or if there is a need for any early dismissal.
  - In the event of an unexpected early dismissal, no child will be sent home until such contact is made and a safe place for the child to go to is identified. Without such contact and assurance, children will be kept at their home school or at another district school until normal dismissal time.

## Communication Method Options:

- D34 will communicate with families through its SwiftReach system, using any or all of the following formats: phone call, text, or email.
  - Please make sure your contact information is current in PowerSchool, as the system will utilize the information in the PowerSchool database. If assistance is needed, contact your child's school.
- D34 website: [www.antioch34.com](http://www.antioch34.com)
- Emergency Closing Center Website: <http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com>
- Listen to WGN Radio 720-AM, WBBM Radio 780-AM, or watch CBS Ch. 2, NBC Ch. 5, ABC CH. 7, FOX 32, WGN-TV Ch. 9, or CLTV cable for closing information.

## How is the Decision to Cancel School Made?

Superintendents from area districts start communicating with each other as soon as the weather reports start to look threatening. The superintendents generally try to reach a consensus on school closures. Several districts have overlap in the communities they service and districts they are associated with, therefore, we try hard to work together. Discussing the decision to close schools with each other is very helpful in considering all the scenarios, possible outcomes, and implications.