



Frequently Asked Questions



The Brookings School District Inclement Weather FAQ

To respond to anticipated questions regarding inclement weather decisions, this list of Frequently Asked Questions will provide more information on how the Brookings School District will respond to inclement weather.

What is the driving force behind inclement weather decisions?

The Brookings School District makes every effort to keep schools open each day. We know closing school on a day it is scheduled to be open has a tremendous impact on our families and our community. Our first choice will always be to remain open, but at times the weather conditions within the school district boundaries merit a school closing or a late start.

How and when are inclement weather decisions decided?

The Brookings School District maintains close communication with the National Weather Service, local government, and neighboring school districts to make decisions regarding inclement weather and other emergency situations that are in the best interest of the safety of our learners, staff and parents/guardians. Each weather event is looked at individually with multiple sources of information consulted before making the final decision on whether to hold school due to inclement weather. The decision to keep schools open or to close them results from weighing a variety of factors including excessive snow, temperature or wind chill numbers, wind speeds, road conditions, and the safety of bussing learners.

Climatologists have often advised that weather forecasts can change throughout the day and the most accurate forecast is often available closest to the time the inclement weather is predicted. Therefore, we always strive to balance timely communication to patrons of the Brookings School District with making decisions based on the most accurate forecast available at the time of the decision. We are always conscious of ensuring that we provide enough time for parents/guardians to arrange for supervision of their children.

What is the cancellation process?

The decision to close school will be made and communicated in as timely of a manner as possible. We strive to make the decision if needed with enough time for parents/guardians to make arrangements for supervision for their children. However, at times, a decision the morning of a school day may need to be made to see what weather materializes overnight; if a decision is made in the morning, the decision will be made by 6:00 a.m.

Parents/guardians, please keep the following in mind:

If school is in session, and a parent/guardian decides that a learner should remain at home due to weather conditions, that decision will be respected by the school. Parents/guardians should use their own judgement in determining if the weather is suitable for their children to make the journey to school. It is always up to parents/guardians to make the final decision about whether or not to send their learner to school if they believe weather conditions present a safety issue. The absence for the day would be considered an excused absence.

If school is called off, parents/guardians will be contacted via the automated phone system. Parents/guardians are encouraged to update contact information with the school on a regular basis so we have up to date contact information. This can be done by calling the school office. School cancellation information will also be broadcasted via local media, and will be posted across our [website](#) and on school social media sites.

Frequently Asked Questions, continued

If a weather or a situation develops during the day, and it is determined that an early dismissal is in the best interest of the learners, parents/guardians will be contacted via the automated phone system. Parents/guardians are encouraged to update contact information with the school on a regular basis so we have up to date contact information. This can be done by calling the school office. School closure information will also be broadcasted via local media, and the information will be posted on our [website](#) and on school social media sites.

Procedures for School Cancellation, Early Release or Late Start

Cancellation

When school is cancelled due to weather, the following occurs:

- All schools are closed.
- The Early Childhood Special Education preschool program is cancelled.
- All daytime programs are cancelled including before and after school programming.
- All after school or evening co-curricular/athletic events, including practices and games, and facility rentals are cancelled.
- If school is cancelled before the start of the school day, there will be no G.A.P. (Great After-School Place).
- If children are at Morning G.A.P. (Great After-School Place) when schools are closing, staff will contact parents to inform them of the closure. Parents will be given a reasonable time frame to come and pick up their child.

Early Release

If weather develops during the school day that merits an early dismissal, the following occurs:

- All schools are closed.
- If school is cancelled prior to 11:00 a.m., there will be no afternoon Early Childhood Special Education preschool.
- Elementary schools and the Early Childhood Special Education preschool program will proceed with dismissal procedures according to the plan provided by parents at the beginning of the school year.
- If school is dismissed before lunch is served, there will be no G.A.P. (Great After-School Place).
- If school is dismissed after lunch is served, G.A.P. will open at dismissal time until 6:00 p.m.
- All after school or evening co-curricular/athletic activities, including practices and games, are cancelled.

Late Start

If the start of school is delayed by two hours, the following occurs:

- Schools start exactly two hours later than the usual time. Learners should not arrive at their school until the scheduled late start time as supervision will not be available.
- Buses will run two hours later than usual. (example: Usual pick up at 7:35 a.m. will occur at 9:35 a.m.)
- There will be no morning student co-curricular activities.
- Breakfast will be served starting at 9:30 a.m. until the first bell in each building.
- If school has a late start, the Morning G.A.P. (Great After-School Place) program will be open for any G.A.P. child that needs care regardless of their site of attendance.