

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Navigating Unpredictable Weather

Indiana's weather can be unpredictable, especially during the winter months. At Centerville-Abington Community Schools, we prioritize the safety of our students while striving to maintain consistent educational experiences. This page outlines our procedures for handling inclement weather situations.

School Delays, Closings, and eLearning Due to Inclement Weather

How Weather Decisions Are Made

Multiple variables are considered when deciding to delay, cancel, or implement an eLearning day due to inclement weather. These decisions are never taken lightly and always prioritize student safety.

Freezing Rain/Sleet

The most unpredictable weather variable is freezing rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature sensitive and fast-occurring. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet are predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. Such a decision will generally be made in the morning.

Snowfall

Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Meteorologists generally give a 2-inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because the variation in actual snowfall, when compared to predicted snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will generally be made in the morning.

Extreme Snowfall Situations

When snow has accumulated to a significant level or is at such a level with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening. A significant level is one in which local authorities have indicated it is unlikely streets will be passable by the following morning. This is an unlikely, but possible occurrence.

Extreme Cold

Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. Centerville-Abington Community Schools uses the hourly temperature predictions for its zip code from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov). If the air temperature is predicted by NOAA to be -10 degrees or below (the starting point for wind chill concerns with calm wind) at 7:00 a.m. the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. If the air temperature is predicted to remain at -10 degrees or below at 9:00 a.m. the school will consider closing. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, perhaps the evening before, but certainly by 6:00 a.m. in the morning.

Extreme Wind Chill

Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. While NOAA observations and predictions are based upon the open conditions of the Richmond Municipal Airport, these conditions are often different throughout Wayne County. Local observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing school. Wind chill concerns emerge at a predicted wind chill temperature of -19 degrees. If the wind chill is predicted by NOAA to be ---19 degrees or below and local wind conditions are predicted to mirror the airport wind conditions at 7:00 a.m., the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. If the wind chill is predicted to remain at -19 degrees or below and local conditions mirror the airport wind conditions at 9:00 a.m., the school will consider closing. The variability of wind speed will likely cause this decision to be made in the morning.

Beliefs

- Parents have a child-specific perspective regarding their child and the threat of inclement weather.

- A parent may make a determination for their child and should respect the perspective of another parent regarding their child.
- CACS respects a parent's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.
- CACS believes the public expects schools to be open and to provide education, supervision, and other services (including meals) to its students.
- CACS believes all parents are committed to keeping children safe and these parents will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending the children to school.
- Variable weather conditions are to be expected in Central Indiana. CACS believes parents have plans in place for weather-related delays and closures and believe morning notification is generally appropriate.



Wind Chill Chart



