

SNOW DAY DETERMINATION

Various factors are examined before a decision is made to cancel school, have a late start, run storm routes, or dismiss students early.

Factors considered:

Warnings and Watches (Storm, Blizzard, High Winds) - The National Weather Service issues warnings and watches and provides me with up-to-date weather information.

Road Conditions – Roads in town often look very different from the rural roads. The majority of our bus routes are on dirt roads.

I communicate with both El Paso and Elbert County Road and Bridge Departments – they share road conditions as well as probable plowing and snow removal schedules with me. Please keep in mind, the county road and bridge services have been impacted by the ongoing county budget cuts.

Sometimes a “call” to cancel school is made in the very early hours of the morning and Mother Nature surprises me, going against my prediction. As we all know, the weather can also turn out worse than predictions. When making a decision, student safety is always paramount. All students and activities in the school are important but nothing is more critical than everybody’s safety and well being. Please understand that making a snow day determination is never taken lightly and is always a difficult one. Despite my best efforts and information gathering, I am sometimes fooled by the experts “wrong” call.

Please become familiar with the district Storm Route transportation plan. Check the school website for more specifics. Be sure to have a plan for your student if school is dismissed early or a snow day is necessary. **All families should make advanced arrangements for their children in case of school closures.** As we continue to put student safety first, I certainly appreciate your support.

Parents are the primary protectors and **you will need to decide what is best for your children** regardless of any decision made by me. The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at your discretion and I understand and respect that decision. Parents can contact the school and arrange for an excused student absence if you decide to exercise this choice.

If school is cancelled or if students are dismissed early, all events at the school are cancelled (this includes all after school activities and functions, both school and community related).