



## Caswell County Schools

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Dr. Sandra E. Carter, Superintendent

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January 30, 2018

Dear Caswell County Schools Stakeholders,

This message is to share with parents and staff the decision-making process that goes into delaying schools when there is inclement weather. Our ultimate goal in weather related decision-making is to ensure our students and staff are traveling to school in safe conditions.

With schools starting as early as 7:45am, our first buses roll out at 5:30am. That being said, our target time for notification of any delays is no later than 5:00am. If we know earlier, we will make the call as early as possible.

Today was not typical temperature and weather conditions. Temperatures were above freezing during the early morning hours and then dropped after the buses were on the roads. We made a decision to make a delay as soon as the temperature dropped below freezing.

To share our exact decision making process for this morning:

At 3:30am, staff members were traveling the roads of Caswell County, targeting roads that have a history of icy conditions. At 3:30am, there were light mist conditions, but no black ice with temperatures above freezing at 35 degrees. At that point, we were clear to move forward with buses, rolling out at 5:30am.

At 5:35am, we received a call that black ice was observed on a road. At that time the temperature had also dropped to 33 degrees. At 5:49am, a call went out to delay school for two hours.

At 8:15am, we were continuing to monitor road conditions and temperatures were above freezing. We contacted the Department of Transportation and received confirmation that road conditions looked good and also confirmed that roads had been salted at all bridges and intersections.

Just 15 minutes later (8:30am), the temperature had dropped to below freezing and we observed black ice on a few roads. We immediately made the decision for a three hour delay. I was aware that buses had started their routes and picked up some students; however, with the new information and the sudden temperature drop, I made the call on the side of safety. We also ensured that buses could carry their students to school and there would be administrative coverage for students.

I apologize for any inconvenience as I make every decision to the best of my ability to ensure our student drivers, buses drivers, staff and parents are in safe driving conditions to school. I appreciate your understanding, and as with all procedures we are reflecting on strategies for improvement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandra Carter  
Superintendent