



# STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices  
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[www.staffordschools.org](http://www.staffordschools.org)

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Superintendent

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*"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"*

January 2, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The winter season is upon us. Our district staff understands that our decision to open or close schools during inclement weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served – both academically and socially – by being in school. But as always, our top priority is the safety of our students.

## ◆ HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools during inclement weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- **Correspondence with the Stafford Township Police Department**
- **Amount of snow and ice accumulated**
- **Whether precipitation is continuing**
- **Building conditions**
- **Parking lot conditions** - Administrators talk to maintenance and custodial staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- **Temperature and wind chill** - Please remember that some of our students walk to school and some must wait outside for the bus.
- **Weather predictions** - We prefer not making our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But sometimes this is unavoidable.
- **What other school districts are doing (Southern Regional School District)** - We also share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing and try to coordinate if conditions are the same.

## ◆ WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As Superintendent of Schools, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and the recommendation from the School Business Administrator who collects timely information from the Transportation Coordinator and the Director of Facilities.

◆ **HOW ARE PARENTS NOTIFIED?**

School cancellations and announcements will be made via:

92.7 WOBN FM  
Twitter  
Text

TV – News 12 and CBS News  
District Website  
Email

We have also implemented an automated call out system that will notify parents in the event of an emergency.

Also, updated information will be immediately posted on the home page of the district's website ([www.staffordschools.org](http://www.staffordschools.org)) or you may call the district at 978-5700 for information.

◆ **WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?**

Generally I try to make the decision by 5:30 a.m. or earlier so we can notify radio and TV stations and post the decision on our website. If I wait longer to announce a closing, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised.

◆ **WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?**

Keep in mind that, even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision in the morning without endangering students. Once we make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have an early dismissal, but we will give as much notice as possible.

Although my staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel that it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone better understand the process that our district uses to make the best possible decision for all in the district.

Sincerely,



George J. Chidiac  
Superintendent