

Bad Weather / School Closure / Snow Days

Letter from Superintendent	Snow Day Information	Snow Routes
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Malcolm Massey, District Contact
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East Wenatchee, WA 98802

RE: Inclement Weather/School Closure Information

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide our families with information concerning our inclement weather decisions. **Our first and most important priority is to insure the safety of all our students.** While the decision to open, close, or delay the school start can be complicated due to changing and unpredictable weather occurrences, it is our goal to inform our families as soon as possible using a variety of communication avenues. Our decision options will be kept to a minimum to assist with communication. With this as a goal, we will exercise one of the following options depending on weather conditions:

- 1.School will be **OPEN AT REGULAR TIMES.** (Buses will either operate on regular routes at regular times, or on pre-determined snow routes. If buses operate on snow routes in the morning, we will operate on snow routes in the afternoon regardless of changing weather conditions.)
- 2.School will open on a **2-HOUR DELAYED START.** (Schools open two hours later than regular times. Bus pick up times will be 2 hours later than the normal times and may operate on regular routes or on snow routes.
Morning kindergarten and pre-school will not attend on delayed start days. Announcements concerning evening activities, practices, etc. will be made on the day of the delay.
- 3.Schools will **CLOSE.** (If the decision to close is necessary, all scheduled school events, practices, community events that utilize school facilities, etc. will be cancelled.)

Our buses are the safest means of transportation during inclement weather. Our drivers are highly trained and all precautions are taken to insure the safety of our students. Parents on Snow Route Days **must** be there to pick up their student(s) at the drop off locations by the listed times (for those students not walking to their homes). If a parent or responsible adult of a non-walker does not meet their child at the drop off location, the student will remain on the bus and return to the bus garage with the driver.

Rarely is school cancelled as a result of our inability to safely operate our buses. However, a number of factors must be considered when making our inclement weather decision. Those factors are addressed on the back of this letter.

I would encourage each family to keep a copy of the enclosed information in an easily accessible location.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience at those times we must make changes to our regular routine.

Sincerely,

Garn Christensen, Superintendent

School Closure--Snow Day Information

What factors influence the decision?

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

- ❖ **Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the State Patrol.** We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. Also, we must consider that some high school students drive to school.
- ❖ **Amount of snow and ice accumulated.**
- ❖ **Whether precipitation is continuing.**
- ❖ **Building conditions** (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- ❖ **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.** We also share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

Who makes the decision?

The superintendent, in consultation with the transportation and maintenance directors, Douglas County Highway Department, and State Patrol, makes the decision. Neighboring school districts are also consulted.

When must the decision be made?

The decision must be made prior to 6:00 a.m. or earlier in order to notify radio and TV stations and post the decision on our website. If the decision is delayed, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised. Phones will be manned in the district's central office during these unusual situations **beginning at 6:30 a.m.**

Where can I get information concerning the decision?

If bad weather conditions, unusual building circumstances, or other unforeseen activities occur during the night or day, Eastmont School District will list modified schedule and bus route information on our website <http://www.eastmont206.org> by 6:15 a.m. **Please add 2-hours to the pick up times, if a 2-hour delay is in effect for the school day.** Remember to hit the "Refresh" button frequently to see the most up-do-date information to see if conditions have changed.

If you cannot access our Web site, or Radio KPQ AM 560, please contact the District Office at 884-7169. You may also find information broadcasted on:

<p>AM: KPQ 560, FM: KPQ KOHO, KEYG 89.9, KPLW 89.9, KKRK 107.9</p>

Special Needs and Preschool Students: Parents of *special needs and preschool students* will need to make alternative arrangements for pick up and drop off locations, or transport their own student (AM, Midday & PM). Please call our transportation department at 884-4621 to make alternative arrangements.

2007-08 SNOW DAY SCHEDULE
SNOW ROUTES

For AM pick up & PM drop off

Please read the following information carefully:

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Also posted at <http://www.eastmont206.org> Remember to hit the "Refresh" button frequently for the most recent update.

- If you catch a bus from any of the roads listed below, read the description for alternate stops and times for the Snow Schedule. Parents on Snow Route Days must be there to pick up students at the drop off locations by the listed times (for those students not walking to their homes) or they will return to the bus garage with their driver.

MODIFIED ROUTES-AM & PM

- All bus routes not mentioned below are running on regular routes

Route 1: Cancellation of route up Longview road. Students will be picked up at the intersection of Highway 2 & Longview road at 6:50 am and dropped off at 3:17 pm

Route 19: Cancellation of route up Longview road. Students will be picked up at the intersection of Highway 2 & Longview road at 7:20 am, and dropped of at 3:50 pm

Route 31 Badger Mt.: will be 2 hours late.