

Inclement Weather Procedures



The determination of whether or not to close schools for inclement weather, for utility outages or other unforeseen circumstances, is a complex process dependent upon a number of factors, with the ultimate desired outcome being what is best for students, staff and their safety.

CCISD's campus administrative team members are involved in making decisions. When national and local weather forecasters indicate approaching inclement weather, discussions begin and plans are put in motion.

When possible, that planning begins 48-72 hours ahead of the anticipated arrival of any conditions that might affect school operations.

Personal observation of the condition of roads in the district is conducted by the CCISD's Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Support and CCISD's Director of Transportation.

Areas included for observation are various bridges, steep hills, highways, farm roads, as well as less-traveled back roads.

Along with these observations, reports from other law enforcement agencies and TxDOT are considered as to whether they have reports of or have observed icy, flooded or impassable roads. In addition, other factors are considered.

- Time that precipitation begins to accumulate and the amount
- Building conditions (e.g., whether schools have power and heat or A/C)
- Parking lot conditions
- Temperature and wind-chill
- Whether driving hazards or other conditions in the area may prevent employees from arriving for duty.

Weather patterns change quickly and road conditions vary among school districts. Decisions made in our district may not necessarily match up with considerations in a neighboring district.

The administrative team collaborates in person and electronically to compile as much accurate information as possible in order to determine the best strategy for Copperas Cove ISD.

There may be some instances when the forecast is not firm enough the day before the onset of bad weather and further assessments must be made throughout the night, thus requiring a decision to be delayed until 5:30 a.m. the next morning.

More than 5660 of CCISD's 8,000 students are eligible to ride the buses each day.

While riding the bus is by far the safest form of transportation, decisions to delay or close schools must also consider those students who are driven

to school by their parents, students who are driven by other teenage students our most inexperienced drivers who also drive themselves.

CCISD's superintendent of schools makes the final decision, with the goal to announce that decision by 6 a.m. on the day of dismissal.

CCISD staff members are sensitive to the fact that cancellations or delayed start time upsets many family schedules, especially those of working parents. Ideally when enough information is available, a decision would be made at least 24 hours prior to the onset of inclement weather so parents can make alternative child care arrangements.

Also, school closings may occur during the school day. Every weather event is different and unfortunately, forecasts made by humans are sometimes wrong. Mother Nature does not factor anyone's professional reputation or convenience into when a bad weather system will move into our area or how it will affect school operations.

Thank you for entrusting CCISD with the safety of your children.

For further information, contact the CCISD Communications Department at 254-547-1227 or via email at communications@ccisd.com.