INCLEMENT WEATHER

SCHOOL CLOSURES, DELAYED STARTS & EARLY RELEASES

Why not just close schools in anticipation of inclement weather? For schools, the emergency weather closing process is complex and extends well beyond concerns for lost attendance days and funding. (In fact, days are made up through designated bad weather makeup days planned in the school calendar, so they are not truly lost.) Interruption of the educational process — even just delayed starts — disrupts schedules, affects learning, deprives many students of nutritional, health, and mental health services they primarily receive at schools, and could potentially leave many children at home unattended, especially if local employers are open.

HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

Safety is our main concern, especially road conditions. Roads will be driven by district staff during early morning hours to make decisions on closing or delaying school. The Superintendent and head of transportation will evaluate road conditions as well as consider factors available through consultations with police, neighboring districts, and weather forecasts. If you feel that the roads are unsafe for your teenage driver, please drive them to school, or if your student is an eligible bus rider, go to their bus stop for pick up.

Remember, solely having freezing temperatures does not cancel school; don’t worry, our schools are warm and cozy for our kids!

WEATHER SAFETY FOR EXTRACURRICULARS

Extracurricular activities may be affected by weather differently than the regular school day. For instance, outdoor activities will be canceled or delayed due to lightning detected by the district’s lightning warning system. Or, even if Midway ISD has canceled school, activities taking place in another school district may still be happening. Coaches and program directors will coordinate with district administrators, competing schools, and if necessary, the UIL, to evaluate the situation. Information about extracurricular activities will come directly from your coach/director, not from the district’s mass-communication system.

NOTIFICATIONS

The morning of: If precipitation or temperatures are uncertain, the district will evaluate the situation in the morning and begin notifications by 6 a.m. the morning of classes VIA PHONE.

The night before: If the ground is already iced over and temperatures are expected to remain below freezing, the district will notify parents by 9 p.m. the night before school VIA EMAIL.

ONLINE: Updated notifications will also be posted on the district’s homepage (www.midwaysd.org), Twitter (@MidwayISD), and Facebook (facebook.com/MidwayISD).

LOCAL MEDIA: Local media will post closure and delay information. Midway sends notices to: Waco Trib; KWTX 10, KCEN 6, KXXV 25, KWKT 44, YNN 8; FM 100, 97.5, 102.5, 95.7, 92.9, 104.9, 94.5, 91.3, 107.9, 106.7, 104.1, 105.5, 103.1, 106.3, 101.7; AM 1460, 1660, 1400.