

10/13/17 Weather Information Letter

Dear Parent Partners:

The weather conditions in our area can change in a short period of time. One day we may be enjoying perfect weather conditions only to be facing the threat of severe weather or snow the next day. One thing that does not change is our system's commitment to keeping our students safe and out of harm's way. I meet with our safety team on a regular basis to review our inclement weather procedures, and to discuss ways we can communicate our procedure to parents and stakeholders.

As we enter a very active season that could bring the possibility of inclement weather conditions, I would like to make you aware of Morgan County Schools procedures that are important to you and your family:

- Weather decisions are made by our team through a review of conditions countywide. Each area of our school system is assigned an "in the field" spotter who reports back to me and to applicable Central Office staff regarding conditions in that area. The conditions of all areas are reviewed and considered when making decisions regarding the delay, early dismissal or cancellation of school.
- That being said, you know the conditions at your home the best. If you feel that the weather conditions at your home are hazardous in regard to travel please do not feel that you must send your child to school. The absence will not be counted against your child provided you supply the school with documentation the absence is due to inclement weather conditions at your home which negatively impacted travel.
- During inclement weather events, we monitor conditions continuously. We also communicate decisions regarding delays and cancellations to the public per the following timeline:
 - Decisions regarding delays or cancellations are released to the public in time for broadcast during the 5:00 p.m./6:00 p.m. newscasts or no later than the 10:00 p.m. newscasts.
 - If no decision is announced during the 10:00 p.m. newscasts, the next time for a decision to be announced is 5:30 a.m.
 - There is no need to monitor the news during the late night or pre-dawn hours for an announcement regarding delays or cancellations.
 - If after a delay the decision is made to cancel the entire day, the decision to cancel school will be released to our news media partners at 7:30 a.m.

I encourage you to become familiar with these times for your personal use when planning for inclement weather events.

The safety of all Morgan County School students is of the highest priority to me. As a parent myself, I understand the need to communicate our inclement weather procedures to our parents and stakeholders. I hope you find this information helpful to you and your family as we work together planning for inclement weather events. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of service to you.

Best regards,

Bill W. Hopkins, Jr.

Superintendent, Morgan County Schools