

## **TPS policy on school delays, closings**

Deciding to delay or close schools due to bad weather conditions can best be described as an inexact science, a constant balance between academic concerns and ensuring the safety of students and staff members. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions (and answers) about how officials from Toledo Public Schools determine whether schools should be delayed or closed due to weather.

### **How will I learn if there is a two-hour delay or if my child's school is closed?**

When all schools are closed or delayed, TPS officials get the word out through a number of avenues, including updates on local television and radio. An All Call is also made to parents and guardians. The district also utilizes social media, including the District's Facebook page ([Toledo Public Schools](#)), Twitter account [@TPSProud](#) and its' Instagram account ([Toledo\\_Public\\_Schools](#)). Dr. Romules Durant, the CEO/Superintendent of TPS, also tweets out the information – you can follow him on Twitter [@romules\\_](#) *A reminder to parents and guardians: please check with the main office at your child's school to ensure your current phone number is on file to receive school and district All Calls.*

### **When will I find out if school is delayed or closed?**

A decision on a two-hour delay is made by 6 a.m. If that switches to a closing, families will learn of the decision by 8 a.m.

### **Who decides if schools are delayed or closed?**

The Director of Transportation first requests an updated forecast from the weather bureau and other appropriate sources. He then checks road conditions and notifies the Chief of Staff of his findings no later than 5:30 a.m. The Chief of Staff then reviews this information with the Superintendent, who makes the ultimate decision on a delay or closing.

If schools are delayed, the Senior Director of Communications contacts local media outlets and makes an All Call to families by 6 a.m. The Director of Transportation continues to monitor road/weather conditions and notifies the Chief of Staff about any changes. That information is shared with the Superintendent. If the decision is made to move from a *school delay* to a *school closing*, the Chief of Staff will notify the Senior Director of Communications, who will make the announcement to the news media and a follow up All Call by 8 a.m.

### **Do the Head Start and preschool programs follow the TPS rules?**

If there is a two-hour delay, the morning sessions of Head Start and preschool will be cancelled but afternoon classes will be held. If TPS elementary and high schools are closed, all Early Childhood locations will also be closed.

### **What are the factors that go into deciding to delay or close due to weather?**

Hazardous weather conditions that are taken into account include a severe wind chill temperature, freezing rain or sleet; ice on the ground; a great deal of snow on the ground or fresh snow that covers existing snow; extremely poor visibility; poor sidewalk conditions because of ice or deep snow and/or advisories issued by the city, county or National Weather Service.

**Will after-school, before-school or weekend activities be cancelled?**

- After-school activities are cancelled when all schools are closed but not when school is delayed. The coordinator of such activities is responsible for letting participants know if a particular event has been cancelled
- Before-school activities such as EHSO and Early Morning Riser classes at the high schools are cancelled when schools are delayed or closed
- Weekend activities are on a day-to-day basis. For example, activities will be cancelled if schools are closed on Friday, unless an exception is announced. If weather conditions improve, a decision might be made to hold activities on Saturday and/or Sunday

**Are athletic events automatically cancelled if schools are closed?**

Not necessarily. A variety of factors are reviewed before determining if sporting events can go on and the decision will be communicated through the local news outlets and social media.

**How will I be notified if weekend events are cancelled or will be held?**

Parents, guardians and participants will be notified via local news stations, the District's social media platforms and any call lists for participants.

Remember, on Twitter, follow [@TPSProud](#) and [@romules\\_](#) and on Facebook, follow [Toledo Public Schools](#).