

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #4

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Parent Information Regarding Inclement Weather

It has always been the intent for the Columbia CUSD#4 to follow and adhere to best practices regarding school safety and school closings due to inclement weather. Safety is a definite priority of the district! Below please find information that will clarify procedures for the 2019-2020 school year.

- **NORMAL SCHOOL CLOSING:** Every attempt is made to alert parents of a school closing by 9:00 PM (10:00 PM at the latest time.) When this is not possible due to developing conditions throughout the night, the target time to alert parents of a school closing is by 5:30 AM.

The following methods are used to communicate school closings for inclement weather purposes:

Blackboard Connect	District Phone Communication System
KMOV TV	CHANNEL 4
KSDK TV	CHANNEL 5
KTVI TV	CHANNEL 2

- **SNOW ROUTES:** In the past, a few unsafe or impassable rural bus routes prevented the district from holding school. In the event select rural routes are not safe to run buses, the district will communicate school is in session, but that we will be running snow routes.

These snow routes include:

Bus #4, #7, #8, #10, #22, and Mini-bus #5.

On such days, buses will NOT run on these specified snow routes. Parents may attempt to drive their child(ren) to school based upon their comfort level with the roads keeping safety in mind as well. However, if a parent feels the snow routes are dangerous and elects not to drive their child(ren) to school, the student(s) will receive an excused absence. All school work can be made up and the student(s) will not be penalized. Again, safety is a priority.

- **DELAYED START:** There may be times when the best course of action is to delay the start of school due to early-morning road conditions. At such times, school will start exactly TWO HOURS later than usual. Therefore, the buses will also run two hours later than usual. Dismissal times will remain the same, including Wednesday PLC early-out days.
- **EARLY CLOSURE:** Every attempt is made to avoid early school closures as an unscheduled dismissal can create significant family disruption. However, in the event the weather deteriorates during the school day, this may be a necessary option.

We realize that changes in our school schedule can be problematic, especially for working parents. We will continue to do our best to keep our schools open, but will maintain safety as a high priority.