



Guidelines for School Delays and Closings

Due to Inclement Weather

- Weather conditions are both variable and extreme in Indiana.
- Concrete rules do not exist for making decisions regarding variable and extreme weather, but these guidelines will serve as a reference for the Madison-Grant United School Corporation (MGUSC).
- MGUSC believes the public expects schools to be open and to provide education, supervision, and other services (including meals) to its students.
- MGUSC believes all parents/guardians are committed to keeping children safe and parents/guardians will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending the children to school.
- MGUSC recognizes that it's first and foremost a

parental decision to determine if a child should attend school on inclement weather days.

- MGUSC respects a parent/guardian's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open, or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the decision to keep their child at home. Parents/guardians are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.

Communication

- On a normal school day, it will be announced no later than 6:30 A.M. if we are delaying and/or closing school.
- Following a delay, it will be announced no later than 8:30 A.M. if we are closing school.
- Announcements can be found on the district's website at mgusc.k12.in.us.
- Automated phone messages through **School Messenger** are sent within 15 minutes of a delay and/or cancellation decision to all contacts that are

provided to the district. To be added to the district's contact list notify a school office or the administration office.

- Additional media outlets are also contacted:

Television: RTV- Channel 6, WTHR- Channel 13, and Fox Channel 59

Radio: – WBAT/WXXC, WLBC and WBCL

Delaying or Closing School is Based on Multiple Variables

Fog

- The most unpredictable weather variable is fog due to its ever-changing nature. Such a decision to delay or close school will be done in the morning by 6:00 am to allow time for transportation adjustments.
Note: Sometimes fog may become an issue after 6:00 am. These days, while unfortunate, occasionally happen.

Freezing Rain/Sleet

- One of the most unpredictable weather variables is freezing^[SEP]rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature sensitive and fast-occurring. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet are predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. Such a decision will generally be made in the morning.

Snowfall

- Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will generally be made in the morning.

Extreme Snowfall Situations

- When snow has accumulated to a significant level, or is at such a level with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening.

Extreme Cold

- Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. MGUSC uses the hourly temperature predictions for its zip code from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov). In addition, MGUSC uses the Wind Chill Chart from the Clarity and the National Weather Service showing when

frostbite becomes a concern if bare skin is exposed to frigid temperatures for varying amounts of time.

- If air temperature is predicted by Clarity to be -10 degrees or below with calm wind (the starting point for severe wind chill concerns) at 7:00 a.m. the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, including the evening before.

Extreme Wind Chill

- Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. While Clarity observations and predictions are based upon the open conditions, these conditions can vary from actual weather in the Madison-Grant United School Corporation observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing school. ^{[[]]}_[SEP]If wind chill values reach -15 degrees or below, then the school will consider a two-hour delay. Such a determination will generally be made in the morning.