



## Administrative Service Center

-MACOMB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #185

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Patrick Mark Twomey, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### Re: Weather Related Cancellation Process

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The following information outlines the process I use during inclement weather conditions.

#### Snow, Ice, Current and Expected Road Conditions

Weather forecasts that predict significant snowfall or ice will prompt the following procedures:

1. I will begin driving snow routes by 4:00 a.m. to check the current road conditions. Our district is divided into four quadrants and I drive bus routes in all four quadrants.
2. If I determine the conditions fall into the "normal" winter driving conditions for Central Illinois, then I will contact the transportation company and inform them we are having school and to prepare the buses.
3. If I determine the current conditions are unsafe but will be safe in a few hours, I will institute the two-hour delay. This allows the road crews to clean and clear the roads making travel safer.
4. If I determine the current conditions are unsafe and it is unlikely they will improve in two hours, I will cancel school. I will do my best to make this decision no later than 5:30 a.m.

NOTE: Rarely will I call off school the night before based solely on the forecast. In my experience, the forecast is incorrect nearly 40% of the time. We miss far fewer days than most schools due to this procedure. I do understand the strain this late call puts on families; however, similar to the instance of a child waking up with the flu, all parents must have a plan B.

#### Extreme Cold Temperatures

Weather forecasts that predict extreme cold temperatures will prompt the following procedures:

1. I will walk one mile at 5:00 a.m. During this walk I will wear a medium weight winter coat with no hat or gloves.
2. If I can walk the full mile and I'm not experiencing unbearable skin pain, then I will call the transportation company and inform them we are having school and to prepare the buses.
3. If the cold and wind are such that I cannot finish my mile walk but the temperature will rise above the -20 below mark in a few hours, I will institute the two-hour delay.
4. If I determine the current conditions are unsafe and it is unlikely they will improve in two hours, I will cancel school. I will do my best to make this decision no later than 5:30 a.m.

NOTE: I use -20 below zero as a starting point. The New York Department of Public Health recommends closing schools at -25.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick M. Twomey