EMERGENCY - SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The Superintendent is empowered to close or delay the opening of the district schools or to dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the health or safety of students and personnel. Such action is never to be taken lightly, for public education is one of the principal functions of the community and should be maintained at a normal level except in extreme circumstances. Under certain circumstances, it may be prudent to excuse students from attending school, to delay the opening hour, or to dismiss students early.

Schools may not be closed by the Superintendent on occasions such as deaths or assassinations of prominent figures, except by decree from the Commissioner of Education, the Governor, or the President of the United States.

In making the decision to close schools or delay the opening of school, the Superintendent or his or her designee shall consider many factors, including the following:

1. Weather conditions, both existing and predicted
2. Driving, traffic, and parking conditions, affecting public and private transportation
3. Actual occurrence or imminent possibility of any emergency condition which would make the operation of schools difficult or dangerous

The Superintendent shall weigh these factors and shall take action to close the schools only after consultation with public works, police, fire, and transportation authorities. Students, parents, and staff shall be informed early in each school year of the procedures which will be used to notify them in case of emergency closing or delays.

A delayed opening means that the opening hour will be postponed ninety (90) minutes from the regular hour.
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Consider:

Will conditions worsen, remain stable, or improve?
Conditions of roads for safety of buses.
Conditions for walkers, visibility - windy, blowing, snow creates danger for walkers.
Has lunch program started? If near lunch period, attempt to serve lunch.

Decision:

Telephone the following:

First Student 893-1631
Provider Transportation 895-9664
Salem Fire Department 898-9774
Salem Police Department 893-1911
Salem Highway Department 893-5305 or 5306
Director of Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance
Building Principals (including St. Joseph's)
Central Office Personnel
Director of Food Service
CTV – 6 Salem School District Local Access Channel
WBZ-TV 4 & WBZ 1030 AM
WHDH-TV 7 & WHDH 850 AM
WCVB-TV5
WMUR-TV 9
WGIR 610 AM & 101 FM
Twitter
Mobile Application