



King and Queen County Public Schools

Carol B. Carter Ed. D., Division Superintendent
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October 27, 2020

Re: Inclement Weather & School Closings

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

The inclement weather season is upon us. Our district staff understands that our decision to open or close schools during inclement weather has a big impact on our families and community. We also understand that our students are better served both academically and socially, by being in school. As always, our top priority is the safety of all of our students and staff.

Currently, King and Queen Elementary (KQES) and Lawson Marriott Elementary (LMES) have early dismissals scheduled for 1:00 P.M. If there is a 2-hour delay, KQES and LMES will dismiss at 3:00 P.M.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

We make our decision to open or close the schools in inclement weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, to include:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff, maintenance staff, Department of Motor Vehicles, emergency services and law enforcement. We must consider the most dangerous roads in our district. Your road may look clear, but remember our county is 70 miles long and elsewhere other roads may be dangerous. We also realize some of our high school students drive to school.
- Amount of snow, rain, and ice that has accumulated,
- In some cases, if precipitation begins during the school day, we will monitor the weather closely. If the weather reports indicate the inclement weather will discontinue within an hour, it would be safer for the students and staff to remain in school for the entire day.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity, water, and/or heat).
- Parking lot conditions (administrators will talk with maintenance and custodial staff).
- Weather predictions from NOAA, the Weather Channel, Wunderground and local meteorology reports
- What other school districts are doing. We also share information with other surrounding divisions and check whether they are opening or closing.



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WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As the superintendent of schools, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from transportation, maintenance, and other key personnel providing me with information.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

There will be an instant alert from our School Messenger system to the staff and families of the notification. It is imperative that we have the correct phone numbers in our Power School system. If you have not been receiving phone messages from your principal, please inform him or her to make the necessary correction. We will also post notification on our district website (www.kqps.net). Channel 6, Channel 8, Channel 12, and WRAR radio station will be notified for up-to-date information on school closings or delays.


WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

My goal is to make the decision between 5:30 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. so we able to notify the bus drivers prior to their first pick up time. If I wait longer to announce a closing, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised. If possible, the decision will be made the evening prior to the closing date.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have any early dismissal, but we will give adequate notice to all parents first. My staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgement on whether he or she should attend. Also, discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process that our district staff uses to make the best possible decision for all in our district.

Grateful,
Carol B. Carter, Ed. D. 
Division Superintendent