

Hartford Area School Districts
Emergency School Closing Procedures

September 25, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The winter season will soon be upon us, and your school district understands that our decision to keep open or to close school in bad weather has a significant effect on families. We also understand that your child is better served both academically and socially by being in school, and our top priority is the safety of all students.

We believe that you know what is best for your child. If you believe he/she would be safer at home in poor weather conditions, he/she will be marked excused. In addition, if you are uncomfortable with the weather conditions throughout a poor weather day, we would encourage you to act upon that belief, communicate with your school's principal, and make the necessary arrangements to pick up your child.

A. Please be advised that the following information is considered in all decisions to open or close school due to inclement weather.

1. Information from city, county, and/or state officials focused on road conditions, and both short and long term weather forecasts.
2. Information from our bus transportation companies, including their individual recommendations focused on road safety for buses.
3. Discussion with our supervisors of building and grounds to ensure that parking lots can be open for parking before and after the school day.

B. In addition, the Hartford area superintendents work collaboratively to open or close school in bad weather. We consider the information in (A) above, and we take into account the following factors:

1. Temperature, including wind chill factor.
2. Wind velocity impacting the blowing and drifting of snow.
3. Buses running routes at a slower pace and having an impact on how long students wait at bus stops.
4. Parents/guardians driving their children to school in poor driving conditions, and high school students with little or no experience in poor road conditions, driving to school.
5. Number of inches of existing and projected snowfall.

Please note that Hartford area schools typically will not implement late starts or early dismissals due to inclement weather. Through past experience, we have learned that coordinating transportation in such cases is not possible due to a lack of available bus drivers. In addition, an early dismissal introduces the risk of sending young students home to empty houses. The area superintendents believe that knowing students are inside, safe, warm, and learning is a better choice than unintentionally sending students home to an empty house.

In addition to the media listed in this letter, each public school district and private school may use additional means of communication to notify parents/guardians and students of school closings. To acquire up-to-date school closing information, please utilize the following media resources:

- **FOX 6 News:** www.fox6now.com
- **WISN TV 12:** www.wisn.com
- **WTMJ TV 4:** www.tmj4.com
- **WTMJ 620 AM:** www.620wtmj.com
- **WTKM 1540 AM/104.9 FM:** www.wtkmradio.com

Sincerely,

Hartford Area Superintendents/Principals and Website Links

Kieth A. Kriewaldt, Ed. D., Superintendent
[Erin School District](#)

Tara Villalobos, Superintendent
[Richfield Joint School District #1](#)

John Engstrom, Superintendent
[Friess Lake School District](#)

Mark T. Smits, Ph.D., Superintendent
[School District of Hartford Joint #1](#)

Attila J. Weninger, Ph.D., Superintendent
[Hartford Union High School District](#)

Steve Hamilton, Principal
[St. Gabriel Catholic School](#)

Dennis Kaczor, Superintendent
[HNR School District](#)

Jen Trimberger, Principal
[St. Kilian's Catholic School](#)

Ben Washburn, Principal
[Peace Lutheran School](#)