



Union-Scioto Local School District School Closings and Delays



School Closings and Delays

Our district administration, faculty, and staff understand that our decision to open or close schools during inclement weather has a big effect on families. 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 our students.

How is the Decision Made?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff, adjoining school districts, local law enforcement, Scioto and Union Twps. and Highway Superintendent for Ross County.
- Amount of snow and/or ice accumulated.
- Snow and/or ice are expected to continue throughout the day.
- Temperature and wind chill.
- Temperature of 0 and below/or sustained wind chills at or below -10F (feels like temp) during peak pick-up times for buses and walking times for students are given special consideration. However, 0 degrees or below does not necessarily mean we will close or delay.
- Weather predictions from satellite systems, local radar, and National Weather.
- The weather's impact on our bus fleet.
- Building conditions (such as whether they have electricity and heat), parking lots, and sidewalk conditions.

Who Makes the Decision?

As Superintendent, I am ultimately responsible for the final decision based on the above factors and recommendations from our Transportation Director and staff. ***Please understand the number of days we have missed previously or any special activity/testing occurring has no bearing on my decision.***

When is the Decision Made?

We strive to make the decision to close or delay by 6:00 am or earlier. In some cases, we can make a decision to close or delay the night before but those are special exceptions as conditions can change or improve significantly overnight. Keep in mind that unusual weather conditions may force us to make closing/delay decisions after this time. **After a 2-hour delay has been called, we strive to make the decision to close if needed by 8:00 am or earlier.**

Will We Delay the Start of School?

We will utilize 2-hour delayed starts. The addition of two hours for local township, county, and state workers to improve road conditions can make for drastic improvements. Furthermore, the additional time will allow for daylight, which can improve driving conditions. We realize that this can be a burden to some families, but if a delayed start of two hours allows for students to attend school, we will utilize this option.

Will We Close School if Conditions Worsen?

If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have an early dismissal, but we will give as much notice as possible through the local media and communication outlets mentioned below. ***Although our staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel that it is safe for your child to get to school, use your best judgment whether or not he or she should attend.*** Also, please discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives as weather conditions worsen.

How is the Public Notified?

The Union-Scioto Local School District will utilize an automated phone call and text alert system. We encourage all families to take advantage of this system as it is the fastest way to communicate school closings, delays, and general information. If your number needs updated, please access the email listed on the home page of our district website. I will also utilize our District Facebook page "Union-Scioto Local School District", my Facebook page "Matt G. Thornsberry" and our district website "Unioto.org" to announce as well. Tune to - TV channels WCMH (4), WSYX (6), FOX (28) and WBNS (10). Tune to - Radio stations WKKJ (94.3), WBEX (1490). You can access WKKJ's website for school closings and delays as well. If a bus is running late we will call to have it added to WKKJ's website and announcements.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process we use in making the safest possible decision for all students and staff in our school district.

Regards,

Matt Thornsberry, Superintendent
Union-Scioto Local School District