

Frequently Asked Questions

Do buses have tire chains?

Yes. However, we only use chains to return students home in an unexpected emergency. If chains are required to travel to school safely, we will close schools.

Do you change schedules for low temperatures?

Sometimes. We begin considering changes when temperatures reach single digits, taking into account wind chill, the capacity to start bus engines, classroom heating, frozen pipes, etc.. If it is safe to come to school, we will – school is often the safest and warmest place for many students because they rely on us for meals and other support.

If my road is not being serviced by a bus, will my child's absence be excused?

Yes. Parents always have the final say when making safety-related decisions. Schools will work with families to ensure students have the opportunity to make up missed work.

My road is clear. Why do we have an altered schedule?

Washington County covers a large geographic area with significant elevation changes. While roads in some areas may be clear, others can remain hazardous. We make decisions based on countywide conditions to ensure safety for all students and staff.

Yesterday we were closed due to low temperatures, today we were on a two-hour delayed schedule but the temperature was the same. Why are your decisions inconsistent?

We understand how decisions like the example above can be confusing to our families. The discrepancy could be due to a variety of reasons. Temperatures may be the same at 6:30 a.m. on both days with forecasts of sustained winds for the first day and no wind the second. Day one may have forecasts for low temperatures all day, and day two may expect rising temperatures. It could be related to issues with bus engine heaters, frozen pipes or furnace issues in schools. There are so many variables related to weather related decisions that it is very difficult to compare two separate decisions.

My driveway is covered with snow and ice. Why are we still having school?

We make decisions based on the roads our buses travel. Sidewalk and driveway conditions are not considered in our decision making process.