



Jackson Public Schools

Inclement Weather/School Closure Procedures

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies that may affect the operation of the Jackson Public School District (JPS), the following procedures generally guide the Superintendent's decision on altering hours, early dismissal or otherwise closing JPS schools.

INCLEMENT WEATHER, EMERGENCIES OR OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT JPS OPERATING HOURS:

Icy road conditions are only one of the factor's considered when making a decision to alter hours, dismiss early or otherwise close JPS schools. Consideration is also given to student and staff safety, the safe operation of the schools and JPS parents' and bus drivers' ability to safely transport students to and/or from schools. To follow is a non-exhaustive list of factors that may influence the superintendent's decision to alter school hours, early dismissal or close schools.

1. Forecasted Severe Weather (tornado, snow with accumulation or ice/freezing rain events that may affect road conditions, severe temperatures, etc.)
2. Utility Emergencies (No gas, water, electricity to a significant region of the school district, etc.)
3. Other Emergencies (Civil Emergencies/Events, road flooding, acts of terrorism, etc.)
4. Any other clear and present threats to the safe operation of the schools or transporting students to and/or from schools.

PROCESS FOR ASSESSING SITUATIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

The superintendent's team of executive advisors assesses inclement weather or other threats that may influence his decision to alter school hours, early dismissal or close schools. This team includes:

- a. Deputy Superintendent of Schools
- b. Executive Director of Campus Enforcement

- c. Executive Director of Facilities and Operations
- d. Executive Director of Transportation
- e. Chief Communications Officer

The team collaborates with the Hinds County Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service and other public entities that may include representatives from JSU, other regional school districts, and JPD (among others as is determined necessary) to assess the inclement weather or other threat to the safe operation of the schools or JPS' ability to safely transport students to and/or from school. The team may assess road conditions, confer with local law enforcement agencies on civil disturbances within the district and/or verify the availability of school building readiness as a part of the process of preparing a recommendation to the superintendent. Through conference calls or other communications means, the JPS advisory team agrees on a recommendation and advances that recommendation to the superintendent.

TIMEFRAME FOR DECISIONS TO ALTER SCHOOL HOURS, EARLY DISMISSAL OR CLOSE SCHOOLS:

For forecasted weather events, JPS, through the superintendent, attempts to notify parents and the community about decisions to alter school hours, dismiss students early or close schools as early as possible. For typical winter weather events, JPS has a goal of making and communicating a decision by 5:00 am on the day of the potential closure or alteration to the normal school hours.

COMMUNICATING THE DECISION:

Once the superintendent makes a decision to alter school hours, dismiss school early or close schools, the decision and details are communicated to the JPS Board and then as follows:

1. A secure message is sent to local broadcast media from the JPS Office of Public and Media Relations,
2. Information is posted on the JPS website (www.jackson.k12.ms.us),
3. An automated phone message is recorded and sent to JPS parents and school personnel,
4. Information is tweeted via the District's official Twitter account (@DrCedrickGray)
5. Information is posted on the official JPS Facebook Page:
(<https://www.facebook.com/JacksonPublicSchools>)

JPS EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS:

601-987-3767 or 601-960-8830 (JPS Campus Enforcement)