



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you and your family have had time to enjoy all the wonderful colors of this fall season. Very soon, winter will arrive, and we may be required to make decisions about closing schools due to weather conditions.

What prompts a decision to close schools?

Relevant information is gathered and analyzed, as follows:

- * A review of data from forecasting services and statewide emergency systems
- * Information on road conditions from transportation staff, police, and highway supervisors
- * An assessment of the amount of accumulated snow and ice and the probability of more
- * Temperature and wind chill data per State guidelines
- * Building status, including utility services and on-site snow removal

Who makes the decision and when?

As Superintendent of Schools, I base my decision on the above factors, in consultation with the above-named staff and authorities. Our objective is to make the decision by 5:30 a.m. or the evening before, if possible, to give parents extra time to arrange alternate plans.

How is the public notified?

The District's mass calling service will be activated as soon as the decision to close schools is made. It will also be posted on the District home page, District Facebook page and District Twitter. Up-to-date information is also provided to local media outlets.

Will we close schools if conditions worsen?

Once we make the decision to keep schools open, our schools are the safest place for your children should the weather take an unpredicted turn for the worse. **All of our buildings have emergency generators and extra food and water to ensure student safety and comfort.** Our schools are safe places even when there are power failures elsewhere in the community. School is the safest place to keep the children while we contact parents and make arrangements for a safe return home. As parents, *if you do not feel it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment as to whether or not he or she should attend.*

I hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process that we use to make the best possible decision about school closings, with your child's safety as our main priority.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

