

JENISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSING

Jenison Public Schools may be canceled when weather conditions or other potentially hazardous conditions make transporting students, conducting classes, and/or extra curricular programs unsafe. The Superintendent or designee will make the decision to close school or cancel extra curricular programs after a review of the conditions. School will not normally be canceled during tornado or other severe weather watches.

When school has not been canceled and parents feel it is unsafe for their children to attend school, parents may keep children at home or remove children from school during the course of the school day. To do so, parents should follow procedures for reporting student absence as outlined in the school handbook. Students will be given an excused absence if protocol is followed.

Jenison Public Schools utilizes a communication tool known as School Messenger. This communication system provides us the opportunity to contact parents directly with important information through an automated call or e-mail. When appropriate, we will also utilize this tool to contact you in the event of emergency school closings.

I. School Closing-Prior To The Beginning Of The School Day

In case of cancellation prior to the beginning of the school day, an automated call will be made to the parent's contact numbers between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Should you prefer to only receive an e-mail message or not to be contacted at all through School Messenger, please notify your building principal. In addition, notice of school closings will be aired on local television and radio stations before 6:00 a.m. on the day of such closing.

II. School Closing-Emergency Dismissal

It is not the practice of Jenison Public Schools to close school early. However, in the rare case school should have to be dismissed early, an automated call or e-mail will be sent to the contact information provided to alert parents to the necessity of an early dismissal. In addition, local radio and television stations will be notified. The normal dismissal procedures and bus operations will be implemented with the dismissal of the junior and senior high schools first, followed by dismissal of elementary schools. Specific procedures for emergency student dismissal will be implemented in each building according to administrative guidelines. All school employees will remain on duty until students have safely left the school building.

If severe weather or other potentially hazardous conditions exist during regular dismissal times, the Superintendent or designee may delay dismissal.

In the event that a tornado watch is issued during the time that students are being transported to or from school, or during school itself, no changes in the regular transportation or school schedule will be made. During a tornado watch and/or severe thunderstorm warning, however, the district will be vigilant of deteriorating weather conditions or further weather reports so as to take any action that may become necessary.

Should a tornado warning be issued during the time when students are attending school, students will be instructed to take cover in accordance with previously established emergency procedures. Should such a tornado warning occur during the time that students are being transported to or from school, school buses will be alerted and will discontinue their routes and proceed with the students to the nearest possible Jenison Public Schools facility to take cover. Students at bus stops should proceed home or to an alternate location according to parents' instructions so that they may take cover until the tornado warning is terminated.

III. Extra-Curricular Activities Or Other Special Program Cancellations

Extra-curricular activities or other special programs will be held at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. Every attempt will be made to notify radio and television stations of cancellation of these activities in a timely manner.

IV. Before/After School Care

In the event school is dismissed early, the ECC After School Care program sponsored by Jenison Public Schools will be canceled.