

WATERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Watertown, South Dakota

PROCEDURES FOR WINTER STORM EMERGENCIES

The time of the year for weather related announcements is upon us.

The growing number of bus students in the Watertown schools calls for an increasing awareness of the problems caused by blizzards, blocked roads, and the possibilities of buses not being able to proceed normally.

The three most common situations and procedures are:

1. Schools will be closed because of storm and buses will not go out on routes that day. No classes will be held.

- a. Announcements will be made on all local radio stations prior to 6:30 AM that school will be closed and buses will not operate. School cancellation will be posted on the district website (www.k12.sd.us) Television announcements will also be made whenever possible.
- b. Students will not report to school.

2. Schools will be delayed in opening due to various factors. The announcement will indicate that school will start either one or two hours late.

- a. An announcement will go out over radio stations that school classes will start one or two hours late. Bus pick ups will be either one or two hours later than normal when school is delayed. Parents should allow extra time on bus stops as buses may have problems traveling on roads during a delayed opening.
 1. One hour late: Early Bird classes – 9:00 AM
 2. Two hours late: Early Bird classes – 10:00 AM
No AM Kindergarten
No Preschool Handicapped

3. Storms which occur after children are in school.

- a. City children will be sent to their homes before conditions become too difficult.
- b. Bus children will be sent home on the buses early, if conditions warrant. Announcements will be made over radio stations prior to sending buses out. Information will also be posted on the district's website.
- c. If conditions are too bad to send children home on the buses, announcements will be made over the radio and on the website that children will remain in Watertown and "Operation Blizzard" will go into effect.

"Operation Blizzard" is the plan that will go into effect for the rural bus students who might not be able to get home on the bus route.

Parents' decisions related to transportation of children during storms will be honored at all times.

“OPERATION BLIZZARD”

For Rural Bus Children in the Watertown Schools

Should the situation arise where buses operate in the morning but cannot return the children home in the afternoon, we will proceed with “Operation Blizzard”.

Each rural family should designate a family in Watertown where arrangements have been made in advance for their children to stay. Buses will be available to return students who live in mobile home courts adjacent to the city of Watertown to their homes during “Operation Blizzard”. These courts include South View, Town and Country, Mobile Estates, Bayview, Lakeview, Country View, Mallard Cove, Pelican View and Pelican Plaza. Buses will also return students to their homes in the Northridge Addition and Herzog Addition.

The following questionnaire will help us in making sure that each child will have a home to go to, and that you as parents can be assured that each child will be at the home designated.

Any special arrangements you wish to make should be discussed with the building principal. Should you have any questions regarding this form, or the procedure to be used, please call Superintendent Lesli Hanson, 882-6312, Rick Hohn, 882-6314, or Tim Steichen, 882-6335.

Superintendent Lesli Hanson
 Watertown Public Schools

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

_____, Grade:_____ Teacher_____

should go to the home of:

_____, _____, _____
 (Name) (Address) (Phone)

if the bus does not go out on the route. Buses will be available at the school to take children to any part of the city.

 Parent Signature