



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 29, 2020

Dear RPS Parents, Guardians, Students, Teachers and Staff,

On Tuesday, we received guidance from the Commissioner of Education on "Weather-Related Closures" attached [here](#). This guidance offers Districts the opportunity to transition into a 'remote learning' model rather than a weather-related school cancelation requiring a make-up day in June. The decision to apply the remote learning option is dependent on reported power outages in the community or other factors that may impact our ability to provide an appropriate educational experience.

A few things to keep in mind:

- An event may begin with a delay and be changed to a closure
- An event may begin with 'in-school' and change to an early dismissal
- An event may begin with 'remote learning' but due to other factors may result in a closure

Other considerations:

- A school closure cancels/reschedules all before and after-school events, including athletics (unless otherwise stated)
- All out-of district students/magnet students will follow the Ridgefield Public Schools schedule

This communication outlines the process and what you can expect during a weather event:

Prior to the Start of the School Day

The Process:

- An early morning regional conference call with Superintendents hosted by our weather service provider
- A discussion with the Highway Department Superintendent occurs to discuss local conditions and expectations for clearing roads
- Consultation with Facilities Manager/Technology Department/Transportation to discuss District accessibility
- If needed, further collaboration with the Director of the Office of Emergency Management
- Every attempt will be made to make a decision and communicate by 5:30 am to:
 - Delay: may be 2 or 3 hour
 - Close completely
 - Remote learn (part or full day)
- Communication and task dissemination is made to Leadership Teams/Departments

What to Expect:

- Alert on RPS Website and social media by 5:45 am
- Media postings by 6:00 am

- Blackboard Connect message to all staff and families via text, phone call and email no later than 5:45 am

After School Day Begins

The Process:

- Regional conference call with Superintendents hosted by our weather service provider (if needed)
- Confer with leadership team on Early Dismissal/After-School Activities (weather alert/condition dependent)
- Consultation with Facilities Manager/Technology Department/Transportation to discuss District needs
- If needed, further collaboration with the Director of the Office of Emergency Management
- A decision is made as soon as possible.
- Communication and task dissemination is made to Leadership teams/Departments

What to Expect:

- Alert on RPS Website and social media as soon as possible
- Media postings as soon as possible
- Blackboard connect message to all staff and families via text, phone call and email as soon as possible

Delay and Dismissal Hours 2020-2021

SCHOOL	2- HR DELAY	3-HR DELAY	EARLY DISMISSAL
RHS/ RAHS	9:45	10:45	10:20
ERMS	10:20	11:20	11:05
SRMS	10:20	11:20	11:05
BES	10:55	11:55	11:40
BMES	11:30	12:30	12:15
FES	11:30	12:30	12:15
RES	10:55	11:55	11:40
SES	10:55	11:55	11:40
VPES	11:30	12:30	12:15
Preschool	No AM Preschool	No AM Preschool	No PM Preschool