

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JOHNSON CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY	POLICY: 723.3
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**Weather Emergency School Closings**

The district administrator is authorized to close the schools, or to dismiss students from classes early, or to begin classes later in the day in the event of hazardous weather conditions or other emergencies. In making the decision to close the schools, the district administrator will consider many factors some of which may include the following:

1. Failure of buses to serve all parts of the school district.
2. Inability to furnish adequate heat in a school building(s) so as to maintain the temperature of the classrooms at a comfortable level.
3. Blizzard conditions which may include freezing rain, heavy snow and/or high winds making it difficult to walk extended distances or unsafe to drive.
4. Extreme cold with severe wind-chill conditions.

The district administrator will take action to close the schools only after consultation with traffic and weather authorities, and with appropriate school officials in neighboring school districts.

When classes are to start late, be dismissed early, or be called off because of emergency conditions, local TV and radio stations will be contacted. Ordinarily notification will be made by 6:00 a.m. if classes are to start late or if school is to be closed for the day. Families will be contacted via the notification system using the most current information in Skyward.

Students, parents, and members of the staff will be informed of the procedures used to notify them in case of an emergency school closing. At the minimum this information will be provided each year in the student handbooks, the newsletter, and staff handbooks.

Parents may decide that road conditions in their particular area are too dangerous for sending their children to school. In this case, they are requested to notify the appropriate building administrator with this information and then to send a note along with the child(ren) when they come back to school explaining the reason for being absent. All work missed will be allowed to be make up. Potential school attendance awards will not be affected for bona fide absences under this paragraph provided the proper procedures are followed.

Special education students attending classes in neighboring school district(s) and students attending parochial or private schools for whom district transportation is provided are affected by district school closings as follows:

1. If there is early dismissal in any of these schools, district buses will pick up the children and bring them back according to the early dismissal schedule. This will be true even if the Johnson Creek schools do not dismiss early.
2. If there is a school cancellation in any of these schools, there will be no classes for these students on the day of cancellation. This will be true even if the Johnson Creek schools hold classes.
3. If weather conditions force school cancellation in the Johnson Creek schools but the other schools continue to hold classes, no transportation services will be provided when Johnson Creek schools cannot open.
4. When weather conditions require that Johnson Creek schools close early, students attending neighboring schools – public, parochial, or private – will be picked up for early dismissal. This will be true even if the neighboring schools continue to hold classes.

In carrying out the terms of this policy the safety of students and staff will have primary consideration.

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