

WILL THERE BE SCHOOL TODAY?

Winter weather conditions are the main reason schools may alter normal schedules with delays or closings. Snow and ice, rain and high water, bitter cold temperatures and other weather conditions are a concern to school officials as well as to parents. Our website and the WV Department of Education website, along with the BCS Twitter account, will report the latest information regarding scheduling changes and SchoolMessenger will be activated.

What conditions result in a school delay?

The superintendent calls school delays, closings and early dismissals when student safety is threatened by extreme weather conditions. Students are our primary concern. Snowfall or ice accumulation during the night would cause our students to wait for buses beside hazardous highways; another two hours would allow snowplows to treat the highways. A delay in the start of the school day may give just enough time to alleviate these hazardous conditions for our students.



Who decides if a two-hour delay in the school's morning schedule is necessary?

The school superintendent makes the final decision for Boone County School delays, closures or early dismissals. By the time this decision is made, several people have already been contacted. The director of transportation reports road conditions after reviewing information from several areas countywide. Critical information is also gathered from the Department of Highways and various public safety departments regarding the availability of snow or ice removal equipment, treatment schedules and emergency information. In addition, regular briefings are conducted by the National Weather Service in Charleston.



What conditions would cause schools to be closed all day?

If the superintendent determines that a two-hour delay would not improve conditions for greater student safety, he may call for schools to be closed. Before making this important decision, however, he considers official information from other sources. The school calendar limits the number of days a superintendent may close schools without extending the school year. Snow and ice are not the only weather concerns which close schools. Rain and high water that results in general flooding may also result in school closings. Again, the superintendent makes the final decision based on a variety of sources.

Who will tell me if school is delayed or closed?

The superintendent has established procedures to notify the public (staff, students and parents) of school delays or closings through the Boone County Schools website, WVDE website, Twitter and television broadcasts in our area. The first and quickest way is through the websites listed and SchoolMessenger (our automated calling system). Calling the central office or individual schools is not recommended and may even delay responses to other emergency calls.

What if there is an emergency situation specific to my area?

There may be emergency situations that affect only certain areas of the county such as loss of public water or electricity. Weather conditions could result in specific buses being unable to make their regular runs, while the remainder of the county school system would operate under normal conditions. When this occurs, notification will be made on the Boone County Schools website, the WVDE website and SchoolMessenger will be activated.

How early will the school delay information be available?

In most cases, the decision to call for a delay or closing will be made before 5:15 am as weather permits on the day affected. When possible, the superintendent will make notifications in time for the 10:00 and/or 11:00 pm news that is broadcast the night before schools would be closed or delayed. Most often, however, it is more effective to observe the overnight conditions before making the final decision to delay or close school.

How does a two-hour delay affect the school schedule?

In most cases, students will receive instruction in all regular classes and only the length of the class period may be affected. Each school principal has established an alternate schedule to be used when the superintendent calls a two-hour delay. Class periods are generally shorter; breakfast is still available to all students and lunch may occur later than usual.

What if school is dismissed early?

Weather conditions may also cause the superintendent to dismiss school before the regularly scheduled time. *Except in extreme crisis situations, the following early dismissal process will be used:*

- All students will be served lunch before dismissal;
- High school students will be dismissed before the elementary students, similar to the regular schedule;
- SchoolMessenger will be activated to notify parents or guardian.

All schools have been provided with an administrative telephone line which will help the school staff to contact parents more efficiently if needed. It is important that accurate telephone contact information is available for every student. Each student should have more than one contact number on file at the school.

<http://www.boonecountyboe.org>

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/closings>

 @bcs_wv