

January 28, 2019

Dear Jeffco Public Schools Families and Staff,

In the midst of what is turning out to be a snowy winter, I am writing to remind you of our inclement weather policies. Covering over 770 square miles, Jeffco Public Schools includes metro and foothills areas, as well as mountain communities. It is unusual for our schools to close and we do not have a district late start policy.

While our county, municipalities, and CDOT are expert snow removers, sometimes the timing of an incoming storm impacts the ability to stay ahead of accumulation. This was the case this morning when the brunt of the storm rolled in later than anticipated and delivered more snow than originally forecasted in some areas like Arvada, Golden, Broomfield, and Westminster. While traffic and road conditions this morning impacted the timeliness of some of our buses, we did not have any significant bus incidents or extreme late arrivals. Our schools were flexible with late arrivals and will always excuse a student absence when called in by a parent or guardian.

When considering a snow closure, we rely on many data sources to inform our decision. These include CDOT and Jeffco County Road & Bridge Department, Skyview Weather Service and other real-time forecast services, first-hand road inspections by staff and community volunteers living in our neighborhoods, forecasts for later in the day, and input from Jeffco Transportation Services. The safety and security of our students and staff is always our top priority. We make the best decision possible given the information we have and the timing with which we need to make the call.

We make our open or closed decision by 4:45 a.m. in order to accommodate school bus dispatch, food services deliveries, site crews, and substitute teacher arrangements. We publicly announce a closure and notify families by 6 a.m.

School closures are announced through a variety of channels: posted first on our District [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, then email, text, and phone messages sent to families and staff using [SchoolMessenger](#). Local media will also be notified. Parents should ensure their contact information and emergency contacts are correct in [JeffcoConnect](#) and follow us on social media.

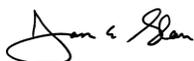
Our first priority is the physical safety of all students and employees. There are many other considerations that go into the decision. Are any roads closed? Are businesses closed? Can our school buses and snow removal teams do their jobs? Will we be able to provide meals? Are we being cautious enough about using a day so we don't need to add more days in the summer? Ultimately, do all these factors, and more, justify disrupting 85,000 student families and 14,000 employee schedules, plus the expense to the school district?

Decisions on school closures are ultimately judgements that must be made based on the best information available at the time. We respect that others may have made different decisions. We evaluate each weather event independently based upon all the factors and information we have available.

I appreciate the calls and messages we received from concerned parents and hope that the details included in this message and on web page below help to answer your questions. Remember that you have the ultimate responsibility for the safety and well-being of yourself and your children. Parents can always decide not to send their children to school on a snowy day if they feel it is unsafe.

For more information on our closure process go to: [Snow Closure Process](#)

Sincerely,



Jason E. Glass, Ed. D.
Superintendent & Chief Learner
Jeffco Public Schools