

## **Press Release - December 7, 2016**

### **Inclement weather procedures for the Coweta County School System**

As winter approaches and, with it, a greater chance of inclement weather, the Coweta County School System wants to remind parents and the community of the procedures that our schools and system follow in the event of severe weather conditions.

During severe weather watches or warnings, our school system works with local authorities to monitor conditions and proceeds with arrival and dismissal based upon known conditions. Adjustments are made as needed.

In the event that schools are delayed, closed or released early, there are a variety of ways that the school system notifies parents, including:

- Automated phone call (OneCallNow)
- Media outlets (television, radio and media websites)
- District website ([www.cowetaschools.net](http://www.cowetaschools.net))
- Twitter (@CowetaSchools)

Parents are urged to make sure that their child's school has their latest contact information, including new phone numbers, so that they can be contacted during such events.

In the event of severe weather, a determination will be made each day on whether to continue the closure or delay school, based on anticipated travel conditions and other factors. Once a determination is made, the school system will notify parents and the community about the next day's status.

The school system tries to make such determinations as quickly as possible. But storm severity, weather arrival and anticipated travel conditions can be difficult to assess. If the school system cannot make a final determination on the evening before a school day, a determination early the following morning is necessary. Notices are typically placed on the system's website ([cowetaschools.net](http://cowetaschools.net)) that the school system is continuing to evaluate conditions. The school system will notify parents immediately once a determination to close or delay school is made.

In the event of a school delay, the system will notify parents of the length of the delay. For a delay of two hours, for example, parents and students should assume that all normal school procedures are delayed two hours. Bus pick-up is two hours from usual times (at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m., for example, though parents should anticipate the possibility of some delay). School classes will also start two hours later (at 10:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. for example), though school dismissal times would remain the same (2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.).

Other weather-related contingencies or tips include:

- Parents of bus riders should also be aware that extremely cold morning temperatures can cause delays on morning routes. A severe storm watch may also cause delays. Our transportation department works to pick up students as quickly as possible during these conditions.
- In the case of tornado warnings, we re-route buses to the nearest school sites and shelter in place. We also utilize fire stations, if needed. Once a tornado warning has been lifted, and conditions are safe, we will resume bus service.
- Steps you can take include ensuring your children are dressed as warmly as possible during the winter months and remaining with your children until they are picked up when extreme weather conditions exist.
- In the event of school closure, schools often employ a number of resources through which parents or students can stay abreast of school work and assignments, including Remind texts from teachers, Edmodo, Google Classroom, class websites, or online quizzes assigned by teachers.
- It is important that your child's school has your current emergency contact information, including home and work phone numbers for our calling system. Please take the time to update that information with your child's school if needed.