

Beech Grove City Schools

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December 1, 2021

Dear Beech Grove Families,

As we enter the month of December and the season of inclement weather, I felt it was important to update you on our inclement weather process at Beech Grove City Schools. We believe that over the last 18 months staff and families have become accomplished virtual learners. **As a result, all Beech Grove City Schools will participate in the e-learning platform should a closing of school need to occur due to inclement weather, such as snow, ice, or extreme temperatures.** Please watch for an update from your child's school on how this process will occur. Please feel free to call or email your child's Principal should you have any questions.

The information below has been included so you can understand the logistics that go into the decision making process for closing school. It is never an easy decision to close or delay school due to the weather, but this must occur on occasion to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

Finally, we would like to have your children in school every day that we are in session. However, we will always respect your decision as a parent/guardian when it comes to the safety of your child(ren). Together, we will continue to provide great opportunities for our children and prepare them for their future successes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Bair
Assistant Superintendent
Beech Grove City Schools



Beech Grove City Schools

District/School Operations during Inclement Weather

Beliefs

- There are many opinions regarding inclement weather and district/school operations. Some families believe that school should be in session and some families believe that school should be closed during inclement weather.
- Beech Grove City Schools respects a parent's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open or delayed due to inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.
- Beech Grove City Schools will do everything possible to remain open as it is our responsibility to provide education, supervision, and other services (including meals) to our students.
- Beech Grove City Schools believes all parents/guardians are committed to keeping their children safe. An important component of child safety is for children to be dressed appropriately for cold and snowy weather when sending the children to school. If a family is in need of winter clothing (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.), please contact your school.
- Variable weather conditions are to be expected in Central Indiana. It is important for our parents/guardians to have plans in place for weather related delays and closures.

Weather Related Variables

Freezing Rain/Sleet

- The most unpredictable weather variable is freezing rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature sensitive and fast-occurring. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet is predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. A decision to close or delay will be made in the morning.

Snowfall

- Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Meteorologists generally give a 2-inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because of the variation in actual snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will be made in the morning.

Extreme Snowfall Situations

- When snow has accumulated to a significant level, or is at such a level with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening. A significant level is one in which local authorities have indicated it is unlikely streets will be passable by the following morning. This is an unlikely, but possible occurrence.

Extreme Cold

- Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. Beech Grove City Schools uses the hourly temperature predictions for its zip code from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov). If air temperature is predicted by NOAA to be -10 degrees or below (the starting point for wind chill concerns with calm wind) at 7:00 a.m. the school will consider a two hour delay for the start of school. If the air temperature is predicted to remain at -10 degrees or below at 9:00 a.m. the school will consider closing. Such a determination will be made as early as possible.

Extreme Wind Chill

- Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. While NOAA observations and predictions are based upon the open conditions of the Indianapolis Airport, these conditions are often different in the wind barricaded neighborhoods of Beech Grove. Local observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing school. Wind chill concerns emerge at a predicted wind chill temperature of -19 degrees. If wind chill is predicted by NOAA to be -19 degrees or below and local wind conditions are predicted to mirror the airport wind conditions at 7:00 a.m., the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. If the wind chill is predicted to remain at -19 degrees or below and local conditions mirror the airport wind conditions at 9:00 a.m., the school will consider closing. The variability of wind speed will likely cause this decision to be made in the morning.

Functional Facilities

- Utility issues (gas, electricity, water) may cause a school to close. Issues associated with cold, including water supply to a building and electricity to a building or neighborhood, may cause school to be cancelled.

Other Related Topics

School Calendar Consequences

- E-learning days will be used for weather related closings.

School District Employees

- In the event the determination is made that inclement weather has created a risk to human health and Beech Grove City Schools are closed, only personnel designated as essential personnel shall be required to report to work. Essential personnel shall include the Superintendent, the Director of Facilities, the grounds staff, and the maintenance/custodial staff. The primary responsibility of the emergency personnel shall be to maintain the integrity of the buildings (utility operations) and to remove snow, thus allowing school to resume as soon as possible.
- In the event the determination is made that inclement weather has caused a two-hour delay to the start of school, the personnel most closely associated with instruction (teachers and teacher assistants) are expected at work no later than two hours after their normal start time. Such personnel are welcome and their presence at school is appreciated as soon as possible, given the likelihood students will arrive at school earlier than expected. Personnel associated with the regular operation of the schools on a year-round basis (260 day contracted employees) are expected to be at their positions at their normal start time. We want our employees to be safe, so deference in such circumstances may be provided to unique situations. Employees will be allowed to utilize a day of leave (personal leave/vacation leave) in the event they are unable to report to work due to inclement weather.

Extra Curricular Activities

- When school is closed due to inclement weather, no practices, rehearsals, or meetings under the sole control of Beech Grove City Schools shall occur.
- Given that a game time or performance time may be more than 10 hours after the decision to close school is made, and understanding the weather conditions can significantly improve over the course of a day, the decision regarding inter-school athletic contests and major performances shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the school administration.

- A contractual obligation to participate in an away activity may be honored in a situation where a mutually agreeable resolution (postponement or cancellation) cannot be identified.
- Commitments to local and state tournaments shall be honored, to the greatest extent possible.

Wind Chill Chart

