



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO COLD WEATHER

Dear Parents:

At this time of year, it is a good idea to talk with children about cold weather safety. Extra care is needed, especially in younger children, to be sure that frostbite does not occur.

Severe climate conditions where temperatures and wind chill dip into certain extreme ranges can cause concerns for the safety of children. The National Weather Service will begin to issue media ADVISORIES when wind chills of -15°F are predicted and WARNINGS when wind chills of -25°F are predicted. No one should be outside with unprotected skin with wind-chill factors in the range of -40°F . When wind chills of -25°F are predicted, the district may be placed on a cold weather alert. When persistent wind chills are -25°F or below, Monroe County school superintendents will usually close schools. When wind chill factors are between -15°F and -25°F , the decision to close school will be based on local conditions.

Parents are ultimately responsible for ensuring that their children are safe.

1. It is important to check your children's, even teens', outerwear everyday during extreme weather conditions. Warm jackets, hats, scarves, boots, and an extra pair of dry gloves in their pockets will protect them during extremely cold temperatures.
2. Develop an emergency plan and teach your children your emergency plan in case you are not home before the bus comes to pick them up. If a bus is delayed, they need to know where, when, and how to get help if they think they are waiting outside for a bus longer than they should or if they sense danger. Tell your child that if you are not home while they are waiting outside for the bus, how long they may wait outside, where to go in the event the bus is delayed, and what the dangers and risks of extreme weather are.
3. Teach your child about your cold weather plan even if you are not there to help them. Be sure they know when to ask for help, where to find safe shelter in an emergency, and how to protect themselves with proper winter clothing and an understanding of danger signs.

If at any time during extreme weather conditions a parent believes it is unsafe for his or her child to attend school, they should keep the child home. The district will regard this action as a legal absence. As always, we thank you for your cooperation to make sure that children are dressed appropriately for cold weather and that they know what to do in the event of a delay.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Graham
Superintendent of Schools