

School Delays and Cancellations

Notification Procedures

When the Burrell School District may choose to delay and/or cancel the school day for weather or other emergencies, information regarding a delay or closing will be communicated through several media options. WPXI, KDKA and WTAE will have the information posted on their stations. The Burrell School District website (www.burrell.k12.pa.us) will include notification along with the District's Twitter and Facebook accounts. Additionally, a school communication message will be sent to each District family via phone and family access in Skyward. Decisions to delay or close are carefully considered and made as early as possible.

Rationale for How Delay and Closing Decisions Are Made

The decision to delay or cancel school is not taken lightly. When roads or weather are a potential issue, the superintendent uses several resources to make the decision including the National Weather Service, Accu-Weather, consultations with the Upper Burrell Township Public Works Roadmaster, the City of Lower Burrell Public Works Foreman, the Roenigk Bus Garage Manager, Penn Dot, Westmoreland County School Districts and the City of Lower Burrell Police. These conversations and the review of information provided occur between 4:30 am and 5:00 am on the day in question. The Public Works employees have been on the roads most of the night and are prepared to provide valuable information each morning. The Roenigk Bus Garage Manager has also been out on the roads and adds more information. Each entity involved, along with the school district, has the safety of our students at the forefront. The decisions are made on a case by case basis and on the district as a whole, not individual streets or areas. Decisions are typically made by 5:30am. If parents are concerned for their child's safety after the decision is made, they are encouraged to use their own judgement and request an excused absence for their child.

School delays or cancellations due to cold weather are determined based on temperature, wind speeds and wind chills. Since, temperatures typically do not change significantly from 7:00am to 9:00am, we try to avoid delaying for cold weather only. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for cold weather. Often times, students come to school not dressed appropriately for the conditions. We ask that you share the importance of dressing warmly including hats, gloves, mittens, coats, warm footwear, etc. during cold weather days.

Afterschool, Evening, and Sports Activities

Invariably, when a school delay or cancellation occurs, the school district receives phone calls regarding afterschool, evening and sports activities. In most cases, these activities are postponed till a later date. However, school principals and athletic directors have the discretion to hold these events on days of school closings if weather conditions have improved by afternoon or evening and safety is no longer a concern. All community based activities scheduled on district property are cancelled regardless.