

Inclement Weather

Millcreek Township School District Guidelines for School Cancellations and Delays

Who Decides?

The Superintendent is required by law to ensure that the schools are open on all scheduled days unless conditions are unsafe for students. Consequently, the Superintendent must decide if conditions warrant a change in the normal schedule.

When is the Decision Made?

When extreme weather conditions are forecast, the decision is often made the preceding evening in order to give parents additional time to make necessary arrangements for their children. As we live in an area that can historically have rapid changing weather, making a decision the evening before is not always possible. Under normal circumstances, the process of gathering relevant information begins at approximately 3:30 a.m. Every effort is made to make decisions regarding delays and cancellations by 5:30 a.m.

Who Provides Relevant Information?

- District's Transportation Director
- Local and National Weather Service: The Weather Channel <https://weather.com>
- Township and Borough personnel, when appropriate
- School personnel in surrounding school districts, when appropriate
- Communication from Erie County Department of Public Safety (Emergency Management Coordinator)

What are the Primary Reasons for a Delay or Cancellation?

- Extreme cold temperatures that could be unsafe for students.
- Road conditions that are too dangerous for the school buses to travel.

What are the Guidelines Regarding Extreme Cold?

- According to the National Weather Service, no specific rules exist for determining when wind chill becomes dangerous. However, the threshold for potentially dangerous wind chill conditions is about -20°F.
- If the National Weather Service has issued a *Wind Chill Advisory* and wind chill predictions are for temperatures of -20° or colder at 5:30 a.m., a delay *may* be called.

- Note that there may be warmer or cooler areas within the District. The -20°F wind chill guideline is a threshold at which point a delay will be *considered*. The District relies on the *available* temperature reports which may not reflect the conditions at your location.
- If the National Weather service issues a *Wind Chill Warning*, a delay *will* be called. School cancellation is *possible*.

What is the Critical Question Regarding the Safety of the Roads?

The critical question is: Can school buses traveling at safe speeds get students to school safely and reasonably "on time?" The question is not: Is it snowing or are some roads slippery? That answer could be yes, but that does not always mean that buses cannot travel safely.

Note: If an unexpected squall or lake effect snow band arises once transportation of students begins, it is usually not possible to cancel or delay bus runs in progress.

Freeman, Valerie N

From: Freeman, Valerie N
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2022 7:12 AM
To: Robert Lee
Cc: Boyle, Richard; Hessler, Steve
Subject: Wind Chill Warning / Winter Storm Warning
Attachments: Millcreek Township School District Inclement Weather Delays.docx

Importance: High

Bob,

Here is what we are looking at for tonight into tomorrow morning before the buses run:

Once you arrive at work, please come over so we can discuss and make a plan.

WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 1 AM FRIDAY TO 4 PM EST SUNDAY WIND CHILL WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 4 AM FRIDAY TO 10 AM EST SATURDAY

What

Multi-hazard winter storm with a combination of strong winds, very cold temperatures, snow, and blowing snow expected. Total snow accumulations of 6 to 15 inches. Highest snowfall amounts likely in Erie County, Pennsylvania. Winds gusting as high as 65 mph. Dangerously cold wind chills expected. Wind chills as low as 30 below zero.

Where

In Ohio, Lake, Ashtabula Inland and Ashtabula Lakeshore counties. In Pennsylvania, Northern Erie and Southern Erie counties.

When

For the Winter Storm Warning, from 1 AM Friday to 4 PM EST Sunday. For the Wind Chill Warning, from 4 AM Friday to 10 AM EST Saturday.

Impacts

Travel could be very difficult to impossible. Widespread blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning and evening commute. Strong winds could cause tree damage. The cold wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes.

Additional Details

A window of brief intense snowfall is expected with a cold front between 2 AM and 6 AM Friday morning. This front also brings a sharp temperature drop over a matter of a couple hours, where temperatures above freezing drop to the single digits through Friday morning. A flash freeze is likely with this occurrence. Winds increase across the area Friday into Friday night with blowing snow potentially causing hazardous travel. Strong winds could cause damage to trees, power lines, and blow around unsecured objects. From Friday through Sunday, a period of almost 48 hours where temperatures remain in the single digits. This combined with the strong winds would allow for a long period of wind chills well below zero. Temperatures this cold for an extended period of time will impact infrastructure across the region with frozen pipes a concern.

Wind Chill Warning

From Fri 4 am until Sat 10 am EST

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Action Recommended

Make preparations per the instructions

Issued By

Cleveland - OH, US, National Weather Service

Affected Area

In Ohio, Lake, Ashtabula Inland and Ashtabula Lakeshore counties. In Pennsylvania, Northern Erie and Southern Erie counties

Description

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 1 AM FRIDAY TO 4 PM EST SUNDAY... **WIND CHILL WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 4 AM FRIDAY TO 10 AM EST SATURDAY**... WHAT...Multi-hazard winter storm with a combination of strong winds, very cold temperatures, snow, and blowing snow expected. Total snow accumulations of 6 to 15 inches. Highest snowfall amounts likely in Erie County, Pennsylvania. Winds gusting as high as 65 mph. Dangerously cold wind chills expected. **Wind chills as low as 30 below zero.** WHERE...In Ohio, Lake, Ashtabula Inland and Ashtabula Lakeshore counties. In Pennsylvania, Northern Erie and Southern Erie counties. WHEN...For the Winter Storm Warning, from 1 AM Friday to 4 PM EST Sunday. **For the Wind Chill Warning, from 4 AM Friday to 10 AM EST Saturday.** IMPACTS...Travel could be very difficult to impossible. Widespread blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning and evening commute. Strong winds could cause tree damage. The cold wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 30 minutes. ADDITIONAL DETAILS...A window of brief intense snowfall is expected with a cold front between 2 AM and 6 AM Friday morning. This front also brings a sharp temperature drop over a matter of a couple hours, where temperatures above freezing drop to the single digits through Friday morning. A flash freeze is likely with this occurrence. Winds increase across the area Friday into Friday night with blowing snow potentially causing hazardous travel. Strong winds could cause damage to trees, power lines, and blow around unsecured objects. From Friday through Sunday, a period of almost 48 hours where temperatures remain in the single digits. This combined with the strong winds would allow for a long period of wind chills well below zero. Temperatures this cold for an extended period of time will impact infrastructure across the region with frozen pipes a concern. PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. Avoid outside activities if possible. When outside, make sure you wear appropriate clothing, a hat, and gloves.



VALERIE FREEMAN

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Focus on Safety | Care for Our Students | Foster Teamwork
Set the Highest Standards | Surpass Customer Expectations