

Bradley Elementary School District #61 Weather Related Procedures

Winter Weather Guidelines

The health and safety of children are of paramount importance to local school superintendents. There are several relevant factors to consider regarding winter weather and the decision to open or close schools, such as:

1. Weather service information
2. Temperature and wind chill
3. Amount of snow and ice accumulated
4. Whether snow/ice is continuing
5. Building and bus fleet conditions
6. Parking lot & sidewalk conditions
7. Discussion with village officials about snow removal status for roads
8. Discussion with other school districts

Criteria for School Closing - Cold

The district refers to the NOAA National Weather Service's Wind Chill Chart, which provides information about the likelihood of frostbite due to prolonged exposure.

Wind Chill	0 to -19	School Open
Wind Chill	-20 to -29	School may be open
Wind Chill	-30 and below	School will close

Criteria for School Closing – Snow/Ice

The district refers to local weather forecasts which provide information on projected snow &/or ice accumulations. The district will take into consideration projected amounts of snow &/or ice accumulations, especially during travel times to and from school; along with reviewing if the streets are clear enough for bus travel and if driving conditions are hazardous.

Communication of School Closing or Early Dismissal

The district is aware that it is difficult for families when changes are made to the school day on short notice. However, the health and safety of the children must come first.

BESD61 will make every effort to make a decision and announce a weather related dismissal the night before; however, parents, students, and staff will be notified as soon as possible in the event an early dismissal is necessary due to the wind chill, or for unpredicted snow or ice accumulations. Notification will be made via phone call system, email, and District Facebook and website pages.

Parents and guardians reserve the right to keep their children home from school for safety reasons. Absences from school due to inclement weather will be recorded as an excused absence on the student's record as long as it is reported per school procedures.

Athletics/Extra-Curricular Activities

If school is not in session, all athletic and extra-curricular activities and events, including practices, may be cancelled. The only exception involves clubs or teams participating in post-season events.

Staff Members

In the event school is dismissed early due to the wind chill or snow/ice accumulation, all staff members will be released per the superintendent's discretion.

Guidelines for Outdoor Recess

The district has a general guideline that students will go outside if the temperature "feels like" 20 degrees or higher. However, we also take other factors into account (wind chill, frostbite index, sunshine) in making the daily determination. If the sun is shining and the wind speed is low, we may send students out when the air temperature is slightly below 20 degrees. We also have the option of shortening the time students spend outside if needed. During winter months, always have your children dress for outdoor weather.