

Winter/Severe Weather Guidelines

Communications Department – October 12, 2016



GEARY
COUNTY
S C H O O L S

1. The decision about "**SCHOOL CANCELLATION, EARLY DISMISSAL**", or "**DELAYED STARTING TIMES**", is made by the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.
2. When school is in session during inclement weather, the final decision whether or not a child should attend school or stay at home is the **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENTS**.
3. Announcements will be made to include all K-12 classes, Infant Toddler, Early Childhood, Adult Education, Before & After School programs and Parents as Teachers for all schools in USD 475.
4. It is not possible for schools to call each parent; therefore, announcements regarding (1) "School Cancellations", (2) "Early Dismissals", (3) "Delayed Starting Times" or changes in bus schedules will be made via text message, USD 475 website, mobile app, Facebook, Twitter, and area media outlets:

KJCK – 1420 AM	KJCK 97.5 FM	KQLA 103.5	SUNNY – 102.5
KMAN 1350 AM	K-ROCK 101.5 FM	Topeka Area Stations	

5. Announcements regarding "**School Cancellations**" will be made the day before when possible, but no later than 5:00 a.m.
6. Announcements regarding "**Delayed Starting Times**" will be made no later than 5:00 a.m.
A delayed start to the school day will result in the cancellation of before-school programs by Boys & Girls Club and Early Childhood morning sessions.
7. Announcements regarding "**Early Dismissal**" will be made as soon as a decision is made to dismiss school.
8. **Cold Weather Safety Advisory:** When extreme cold temperatures and dangerous wind-chill conditions exist, students and parents are reminded:
 - Students should dress warmly and cover all exposed skin surfaces.
 - Students should remain inside the school or home until transportation arrives.
 - Students should NOT walk long distances to or from school.
 - **Parents are to make the final decision as to whether or not their children should attend school.**
9. **Winter Recess/Building Access Guidelines:**
Students will remain in the building for recess and/or be permitted to enter the building before school if the temperature or wind chill is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

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