

School Newsletter Article 2010-2011

Emergency School Closures

Winter weather is just around the corner and the school district has announced its emergency school closure procedures for the year. The safety of our students and staff is our greatest concern.

When poor weather conditions are expected the district's emergency weather team goes on alert.

- A private weather forecasting service is consulted, as well as the local weather forecasters.
- Road conditions are checked through the Colorado Highway Department, the Highway Patrol, county snow plow drivers and the district's bus drivers.
- Principals, teachers and school facility managers provide information about the conditions of their buildings, parking lots and surrounding roads.

The district makes every effort to announce school closures before 6 a.m., but sometimes weather conditions change rapidly and a late decision must be made.

Once a decision is made, a phone call, e-mail and text message will be sent to Jeffco families via SchoolMessenger, Parents can log on to the SchoolMessenger contact manager at: <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schoolmessenger/index.html> to designate how they would like to be contacted about emergency school closings.

The local media is notified regarding school closings and asked to announce the information as soon as possible. The district's telephone hotline at 303-982-6600, and the school district Web page at <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/closures/index.html> are also updated.

Should schools need to be closed during the day, every attempt will be made to notify parents. Students will not be transported home without parent notification and contact.

Since parents are the primary protectors, they will need to decide what is right for their children. The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at the parents' discretion and the school understands and respects the decision. Parents should make advanced plans for school closures and talk to their children about the family plan.

For more information about school closures and SchoolMessenger alerts see:
<http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/closures/index.html>.