



Greenville ISD Severe and Inclement Weather Procedures District Staff Instructions

Inclement Weather Measures

The possibility of severe or inclement weather may result in the following measures:

- switch to at-home virtual learning
- delay of school start times
- early release from school
- cancellation of the school day

New Protocols for Weather-Related Schedule Changes

Snow and icy conditions and the need for students and staff to stay home because of the weather will no longer lead to the automatic canceling of instruction.

The district is revising its winter weather protocols to include at-home virtual learning as an option during inclement weather.

If the district determines it cannot safely transport students to school on a day of in-person learning, the district will announce a day of at-home virtual learning for all students. The decision to move to at-home virtual learning for all students will be made the night before. It will be communicated on the district website, social media, phone calls and text messaging. Local radio and television stations may also air announcements, but please visit the district website for the most reliable information.

When there is cause for concern, the Operations Department will monitor weather conditions and inform the Superintendent of the possibility of severe weather.

Discussions regarding the weather will take place the night before a severe winter weather event and its impact on the operations of the district.

The Superintendent will determine the need for a meeting to consider school operations for the day. The meeting and/or remote discussion will take place no later than 5 a.m., if needed.

The following individuals will advise the Superintendent in the event of severe weather:

- Deputy Superintendent
- Chief Operations Officer
- Chief of School Leadership
- Chief of Police
- Director of Transportation



The Superintendent will make the decision to switch to virtual learning, delay or cancel school by 5:30 a.m.

Once the decision is made, the Inclement Weather Communication Plan flowchart will be followed (see attached flowchart).

Decision-Making Process

Greenville ISD takes the following information into consideration:

- Consultation with local emergency management authorities
- Road condition information from transportation staff and local law enforcement
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated
- Building conditions (Do facilities have electricity and heat?)
- Parking lot and sidewalk conditions
- Temperature and wind chill
- Weather forecasts

The superintendent will make a decision by 5:30 a.m. so notification can be communicated to parents, students, and staff by 6 a.m.

In the case of inclement weather or other unforeseen events, the district may decide to alter its school day. When this occurs, the following procedures will be followed:

Delayed Starts and Early Releases

The decision to delay or dismiss school because of weather or emergencies will be made by the Superintendent or designee at the earliest possible time. Notification will be sent to parents as soon as possible to allow adequate time to make arrangements for their children.

Early Dismissals

If weather conditions worsen during the school day, Greenville ISD may need to implement an early dismissal. Notification will be sent to parents as early as possible to allow adequate time to make suitable arrangements for their children.

After-School Events and Severe Weather

Typically, if in-person classes have been canceled, after-school activities will also be canceled. If in-person classes are not canceled, but severe weather is a possibility, the district will communicate regarding after-school activities before 2 p.m.



Communication

If the district determines it cannot safely transport students to school on a day of in-person learning, the district will announce a day of at-home virtual learning for all students. The decision to move to at-home virtual learning for all students will be made the night before. It will be communicated using the following channels:

- GISD website
- GISD app
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)
- Emails to parents and staff
- Text messages to parents

Local radio and television stations may also air announcements, but please visit the district website for the most reliable information.

Winter Weather Protocols for School Personnel

The following procedures should be followed during severe weather events:

Winter Weather Outlook *(3-5 days before onset of significant weather event)*

District Actions:

Post advisory on all channels.

Maintenance:

Ensure that the district has ice melting materials available and equipment is prepared for deployment. Verify outdoor faucets and sprinkler systems have been prepped for freezing conditions.

Transportation:

Safety reminders should be issued to drivers regarding how to drive safely in winter conditions with possible ice on the roads.

Building Actions:

Review technology distribution and inclement weather communication with staff to be ready when a decision is made.



Winter Weather Watch (36-48 hours before onset of significant weather event)

National Weather Service Issues:

- **Winter Storm Watch**—Moderate to high confidence warning criteria will be met
- **Blizzard Watch**—Moderate to high confidence warning criteria will be met

District Actions:

Post advisory on all channels.

Building Actions:

Buildings should look ahead to any scheduled activities (athletic events, parent nights, etc.) and plan for cancellation of events in case of a severe weather event.

Winter Weather Advisory (0-36 hours before onset of significant weather event—hazardous conditions will occur, but amounts are not expected to reach warning criteria. Impacts are expected.)

National Weather Service Issues:

- **Winter Weather Advisory**—Sleet accumulation < 1/2" and/or snow accumulations < 4" and/or freezing rain or freezing drizzle accumulation < 1/4"
- **Winter Weather Advisory**—Blowing/Drifting snow with visibility near 1/4 mile and winds < 35 mph
- **Freezing Rain Advisory**—Freezing rain or freezing drizzle accumulation < 1/4"
- **Wind Chill Advisory**—Wind chill temperatures < 0 F

District Actions:

Deploy resources to check on road conditions for student/staff travel when event arrives. Post advisory on district website and social media.

Maintenance:

Prepare to sand/salt parking lots and sidewalks.

Transportation:

Prepare communications with drivers.

Building Actions:

If school is in session—monitor weather conditions and emergency radio traffic. Prepare to cancel any after school events. Deploy Rapid Response Plan to distribute technology devices.

If school is not in session—monitor communications from district. Prepare to communicate with staff.



Winter Weather Warning (*0-36 hours before onset of significant weather event—winter weather with significant impacts is expected.*)

National Weather Service Issues:

- **Winter Storm Warning**—Snow accumulations > 4” and/or freezing rain or freezing drizzle accumulation > ¼” and/or sleet accumulation > ½” in 12 hours
- **Ice Storm Warning**—Freezing rain accumulation > ¼”

District Actions:

Post advisory on all channels.

Maintenance:

Prepare to sand/salt parking lots and sidewalks. In case of school opening delays, attempt to have schools prepared before opening. In case of closures, prepare parking lots and sidewalks prior to students and staff returning.

Transportation:

Prepare communications with drivers in case of delay, early dismissal and/or school closures.

Building Actions:

If school is in session—monitor weather conditions and emergency radio traffic. Prepare for parents to come and pick up students. Monitor attendance. Deploy Rapid Response Plan to distribute technology devices.

If school is not in session—monitor communications from district and prepare to communicate with staff regarding delay or closure. Principals and Directors will be called directly and should notify staff of delay or closure promptly. When the decision to delay or close is made in the morning, principals should check the building for students who may have been dropped off without being aware of the delay or closure. For delayed starts, staff members are expected to come in as early as possible to help supervise students who arrive early.

Severe Thunder Storm Watch/Tornado Watch (Campus Administration and ACE)

- Campus administrators should have a staff member monitor a transportation radio at all times.
- Principals should carry a campus radio and a radio tuned to the Maintenance Repeater (Emergency) channel.
- Principals and campus administration should monitor weather through weather radio, internet, and district updates.
- Campus administration should make calls to shelter in designated areas based on weather conditions without prompting from the Superintendent or designee. Please notify on Maintenance Repeater (Emergency) channel.



Severe Thunderstorm Warning and Tornado Warnings

During a tornado warning, students will remain in school, along with staff in pre-designated shelter areas. The main office will be closed until the warning has been canceled. Students will not be released, and staff will be in duck-and-cover protocol with students for the safety of all students and staff.

Dismissal from school could possibly be delayed due to severe weather such as high winds, hail, lightning, and tornado warnings. In the event a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning is issued at or near dismissal, campus administration will follow the procedures below:

- Issue directive to shelter according to guidelines and conditions.
- Students should be held in school buildings until the warning is discontinued. Students and staff in portable classrooms should be relocated to the main building.
- Notify parents in car line that a warning has been issued (with bullhorn or other convenient method). Parents may shelter in the school.
- If students are on a bus and a tornado is sighted in the vicinity, students should be unloaded at the nearest school and emergency procedures followed.
- Students will not be released during a Tornado Warning, even at dismissal.
- When warning is canceled, resume dismissal procedures.
- Campus administrators should remain at campus and monitor radio channels until all buses are clear. Communication between drivers and the transportation office will be critical during these storm situations. Other employees with radios should give priority to the transportation department.

The following will be considered when deciding to delay dismissal:

- The amount of time it will take students to get safely home including time for students to walk from bus stops to home; and,
- When storms are expected to arrive; and,
- The amount of time that storms are expected to impact the district.

In the event of a **TORNADO WARNING** prior to the start of school, school will be canceled or delayed as appropriate. In the interest of their own safety and to maintain order on campus, parents are requested not to come to school for their children during tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings.

If severe weather arises while buses are en route to or from school, District Safety Procedure calls for buses to divert to the nearest campus for shelter if time allows.