

Dear Ashland Community.

Please find below the process that is undertaken when determining closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals. I have also included the websites and television channels you can tune into should the weather dictate the need.

Snow days, delayed openings, and early dismissals, oh what fun it is to be a superintendent. It is important to note that every decision made is done so with keeping our students, faculty, and staff's safety as the primary component. This being said, the decision to cancel, delay or dismiss, is very much a collaborative effort.

When snow or poor weather is forecast, I am in constant communication with Ashland's police, fire, and public works departments, along with the APS Director of Facilities. In addition, many discussions occur with superintendents from surrounding towns. We will not always get it right (nor do the forecasters) so in any situation, if you feel your child is not going to be safe, please exercise parental discretion to keep them home. I know I would with my own children.

Generally I try and make school closing or delay decisions as early as possible, however, sometimes it is best to be patient as storms do not always materialize as predicted. Thus, when the storms are unpredictable I will be sure to make decisions by 5 a.m., as school buses need to be canceled, parents need to find child care, and television channels need to be contacted. I encourage families to always have a backup plan in mind. I recognize the challenges this has on working families, as my wife and I to have to find coverage when our children do not have school.

As I stated earlier, decisions will be made collaboratively and with student, faculty, and staff safety our primary concern. The decision to close, delay, or dismiss early is and will continue to be the most challenging. Please recognize that whatever decision is made, comes after much thought, deliberation, and collaboration.

Here are some websites you may want to have handy:

<http://www.wcvb.com/weather/closings>

<http://www.whdh.com/category/271838/weather-closings-delays>

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/closings/>

<http://www.myfoxboston.com/weather/schoolclosings>

Should you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Be well,

Jim Adams, Superintendent of Schools