

# Weather Closure or Delay Process

Hanover School District 28 takes the safety of our students, staff, parents and community members extremely seriously. Information about school closures and delays will be updated on the front web page.

## When a snowstorm is approaching

By far, the biggest reason for school closures in Colorado is snowstorms. In recent years we have also had to deal with heavy rain, fires and tumbleweeds that can cause school delay or closure. In Hanover School District 28, we have a "weather team" that is dedicated to monitoring incoming storms, accessing whether a closure or delay is warranted and then communicating that information to our stakeholders and the public.

## How the decision is made

Beginning early in the morning we have identified staff members, including experienced bus drivers, relay the conditions they see across the district and at our schools. If conditions are extremely treacherous or the forecast indicates that they may become too dangerous the team makes a recommendation for a closure or delay to the Superintendent, who makes the final decision. There are times when the Superintendent is in communication with our neighboring districts to make a decision.

Typically around 4:00am the identified staff drives the roads to determine the road conditions for transporting our students on school buses. The monitoring continues up to 5:00am when district bus drivers begin to leave their homes to get to the bus barn. For this reason the decision for 2-hour delay or closure has to be made by 5:00am. Conditions are monitored for another 90-120 minutes to determine if closure is a safer option.

Since we base our decision on both the current conditions and the forecasted condition the "weather team" uses real time and hour-by-hour forecasted data from the National Weather Service to determine when conditions might change. There may be times when a 2-hour delay is called in order to observe the conditions for additional time. Should conditions get worse or not improve closure may be called.

## **If school remains open**

During Colorado winters snow, wind and ice are to be expected. We encourage everyone within the District to drive extremely cautiously.

Those that do not feel comfortable driving in these conditions or are inexperienced should consider alternate transportation options. As always, we respect a parent's decision to keep their students home, if necessary.

## **If there is a 2-hour delay**

When Hanover schools are placed onto a 2-hour delay both schools start 2-hours after their normal start times. Bus routes are also delayed by 2-hours, so students should plan to be picked up 2-hours later than normal. During a 2-hour delay, both morning and afternoon preschool is canceled.

## **Where are closures and delays posted?**

In the event of a closure or delay, the information will be immediately posted on the district's home page. We use FlashNews to notify the local media outlets automatically (television and print media). Those outlets begin to have the information on their television crawlers, radio announcements, and website closure information.