



**Elmwood Community
School District #322**

October 30, 2019

Dear Elmwood Parents & Guardians:

In the past, I have sent a reminder about weather-related decisions regarding school closings and delays sometime in early to mid-November. But NEVER have I had to send anything out in October! Crazy times, as our kids will head out trick-or-treating tomorrow with snow on the ground.

As a school administrator, it is my job to make decisions on closing school based on whether or not the temperature and road conditions are safe for traveling to and from school. These decisions are not often easy to make, as closing our schools due to inclement weather is a serious decision that disrupts the lives of kids, staff members, and parents. One of our priorities is to make certain our students are here at school, learning and working towards their academic success.

In past years, there were instances where the cancellation of school was prevented through the use of delayed starts. By utilizing this approach, the weather conditions improved, and our local road crews had extra time to prepare the road for safer travels. I realize that we have a large area that encompasses our district boundaries, and not all roads and streets get treated equally throughout it. Please know that as parents, it is your prerogative to not send your child if you feel the roads are not safe enough to travel.

When I make a decision to delay or cancel school, I am doing so based on my assessment of the roads, as I wake up on mornings where inclement weather is possible/present, and drive a route that is a good representation of our district. I also consult with various township road commissioners, and watch weather patterns to try to assess what to expect from Mother Nature. With these practices, I am able to more accurately make the decision on school delays or cancellations.

This is just to serve as a reminder that delayed starts will be utilized if the situation is warranted. If a late start is used on a Wednesday School Improvement Day (where we would normally let out at 2:30), we will switch to a regular dismissal time of 3:05 PM. On a day where we have a scheduled 11:30 AM dismissal (such as tomorrow), I would either utilize a 1-hour delay, or cancel the student attendance day completely.

Please make sure to prepare yourself for these scenarios in the event we should need to enact these procedures. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office and I will be happy to discuss.

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Chad M. Wagner
Superintendent