



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ASHLAND

— EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —

ROBERT E. PRATER, *Superintendent*
AMANDA J. TUTOR, *Business Manager*

KATIE R. MATTHIAS, *Director of Student Learning*
MELISSA A. GESSERT, *Director of Student Services*

School Closing for Severe Weather Policy, Procedures, and Decisions

As we live in Northern Wisconsin and extreme weather is a reality in our lives, we strive to hold school and activities as scheduled. It is our goal to have a full school day on all of our scheduled days per our [school calendar](#). If you disagree with the district's decision to hold school on a day you believe the weather is hazardous, you may keep your child at home. Please call your school's absence line to report the absence. The absence will be excused.

The information below is based on the SDA [Inclement Weather Policy](#). Parents can find more information on page 18 of the [Student-Parent Handbook](#).

SCHOOL CANCELLATION AND EARLY DISMISSAL

School Cancellation

District administrators consider the combined effects of snow, ice, and wind chill when determining if school will be held. If the National Weather Service predicts the wind chill "real feel" to remain at or drop below -40°F (below zero) or the actual temperature is predicted to be below -25°F we will close school. We will make the decision by 7:00 p.m. and communicate soon after.

If school is canceled (or there is an at home learning day due to inclement weather), all school events, including: games, practices, rehearsals, clubs, and outside groups using our schools are typically canceled for the day and into the evening. These will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be approved to resume (based on weather/road conditions) by the Superintendent. If this is the case, information will be communicated through the head coach or advisor by noon.

For the 2023-24 school year, inclement weather days will be handled a little differently than in the past: The first two days will be considered "traditional snow days". School will be canceled and will not be made up. If there are more than two days where the school buildings need to close due to weather, we will have "at home learning days due to inclement weather". Each school will communicate how students will receive their assignments in advance. Students will be responsible for the assignments. We will not be making up these days. Information will go out in October and will be updated periodically.

Early Release/Dismissal

If a storm worsens during the school day, a decision to close school early will be made by approximately 11 a.m. We will monitor the weather in conjunction with Lake Shore Bus Company.

Closing school early is a last resort as we do not wish to send children home when there are no caretakers there to meet them.

Late Starts

In order to meet the demands of the modern family, long commutes, and students adjusting for child care, we attempt to start school on time every day. If we delay school by 2 hours, we will make this decision by 6:00 a.m..



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COMMUNICATIONS

If school is canceled, delayed, or dismissed early, we will inform you as follows:

- **Text/Call Service:** We will text/robo call you using an automated messaging system (please keep phone numbers updated by contacting the school office when you change your number).
- **Online:** Whenever possible, emergency information will be posted on the district's website- <https://www.ashland.k12.wi.us/>.
- **Broadcast:** Information will be submitted to major radio and TV stations as the School District of Ashland.
- **Social media:** The district Facebook, Instagram, and twitter page will be updated as soon as possible.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

School emergency plan for your family: Make sure your children know what to do if school is canceled. Do they know how to get into your home safely if school closes early?

Student emergency contact information at school: Students will be released only to parents, guardians and authorized individuals listed on the student emergency cards kept at school. Please keep this information current.

Weather-appropriate clothing: Please send your child to school dressed appropriately for the weather, e.g. warm coat, mittens, hat, and/or boots. Your child will be expected to go outdoors when outdoor recess is held. Recess may be canceled when the temperature is below zero but we do strive to hold recess every day, even in cold weather.

Students who ride the bus must have warm clothes, buses can break down and lose power.

Even if school is canceled, we always attempt to have the district office and school offices open if you need to call the school.