

Inclement Weather Protocols: 2025-2026

October 21, 2025



WORTHINGTON

DISTRICT 518

Guiding Principles in School Closures

Consultation
with Experts

Staff and
Student
Safety

Regular
Attendance
& Access to
Education

Predictable
Decision -
Making

Timely
Information
Sharing



Consultation with Experts

- National Weather Service is the main disseminator of information for school leaders.
- Transportation Partners
- 518 team members
- Nobles County and City of Worthington officials



Staff & Student Safety

- When making decisions about school closures, our priority is the safety of our students, families and staff.
- If a parent or guardian believes keeping their child(ren) home from school is the best option during inclement weather, they may choose to do so.
 - Provided families enter an absence request, the absence will be excused.



Access to Education

In the event of school closures:

- E-learning (aka “learn from home”) will go into effect when a no-school day is called in a timely manner.
- Any total closures without a “learn from home” option - a determination of make-up days will be required.
- Students receive instruction through choice boards, SeeSaw, or Schoology.
- Students have access to teachers and support staff during “learn from home” days.



Predictable Decision-Making for Cold Weather

For cold-weather closures, we will rely on
the following:

- 35 degrees below zero temperatures (either base temperature or wind chill) forecasted or reported
- Based on Worthington, MN weather reporting
- Reported by the National Weather Service (NWS)/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA)
- If temperature is predicted to rise above -35 degrees by 9:30 AM, a two-hour late start may be considered.



Predictable Decision-Making For Inclement Weather

- For inclement weather closures, the following factors will be considered:
 - Forecasted snow, ice, temperature, wind and the accumulation of weather factors.
 - Current road-conditions as reported by transportation, ISD 518 and other local entities.

We will avoid early-release decisions when possible,
but will prioritize safety first.



Timely Decision-Making

- Whenever possible, we will make decisions about closures or delays the evening prior.
 - Evening communication will be made by phone, text and social media prior to 9:00 pm.
 - Staff will also receive by email.
 - If you do not hear from us by 9:00 pm, no decisions will be communicated that night.
 - Morning communications will be made by 5:15am - 6:00am.



Other Important Information

- Families: Please be sure you have a plan for your child in the event of a school closure, late start or early release.
 - In the event of a school closure or early release, no activities or practices will be held. Rare exceptions to this rule may occur in the event of a section or state-level meet and will be agreed upon by the participating Superintendents.
 - Refer to our website for further information and related updates during weather events.



Weather Protocol Matrix

Click [HERE](#)

Thank you!

Questions?



WORTHINGTON
DISTRICT 518