

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Outlined below are the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) inclement weather procedures for school closing, delayed opening, and early dismissal. This information, while essentially the same as in previous years, is provided to assist schools and offices with their preparations for weather emergencies. Weather-related decisions for all schools will be made based on the most severe condition within the county.

Please refer to the attached chart, which specifies details by program.

Closed Schools

Schools may be closed when weather conditions are severe. An announcement will be issued as soon as the decision is made. Staff members, students, and parents should be asked to listen to area radio and television stations, County Cable Channel 6, Cable Channel 34—MCPS TV, Outlook, on the Internet at montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and a taped telephone message at 301-279-3673. Emergency e-mail announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes on the school system's home page. Every effort will be made to make the announcement the night before. When schools are closed, all school and community activities in public facilities are canceled, including athletic practices and events. Private daycare providers housed in schools may elect to stay open if schools are closed and administrative offices are open. In extreme conditions, administrative offices also may be closed. Day care providers housed in school buildings will not be able to operate on days when administrative offices are closed.

Delayed Opening

When conditions dictate, a two-hour delayed opening may be instituted. Morning prekindergarten, half-day Head Start, other half-day programs, and field trips will be canceled, as well as other activities and programs that begin at 10:30 a.m. or earlier; e.g., the Thomas Edison High School of Technology morning session. All other activities will be held as scheduled. Delayed openings will be announced by 6:00 a.m. over area radio and television stations, County Cable Channel 6, Cable Channel 34—MCPS TV, Outlook, on the Internet at montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and a taped telephone message at 301-279-3673. Emergency e-mail announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes on the school system's home page. Schools going to Outdoor Education will depart for camps two hours later than originally scheduled.

Early Closing

Schools will be notified of early dismissal by 10:15 a.m. through the Emergency Computer Message System. Weather conditions that develop during the morning may cause an early dismissal, two and one-half (2.5) hours earlier than regular school closing time. In such an event, students will be provided lunch and will be transported home two and one-half (2.5) hours early on regular p.m. routes. Morning prekindergarten and half-day Head Start students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. and returned to their normal drop-off locations.

Afternoon prekindergarten programs and other early childhood programs will be canceled. School and community activities scheduled for evening hours, including all field trips, are canceled unless otherwise noted. Such early closing decisions will be announced by 11:00 a.m. over area radio and television stations, County Cable Channel 6, Cable Channel 34—MCPS TV, Outlook, on the Internet at montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and a taped telephone message at 301-279-3673. Emergency e-mail announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes on the school system's home page.

Special and Alternative Education

All services for special education and alternative programs will observe the same time changes as regular education programs, making the necessary adjustments in schedules as required. Because approximately 500 buses are normally scheduled to perform mid-morning and noon runs, potential equipment scheduling conflicts for early dismissal will have to be individually resolved by Department of Transportation staff. Weather changes for students in private placement schools, **located outside Montgomery County**, will be determined by the worst case option between Montgomery County and the jurisdiction in which the school is located (see some possible scenarios below).

<u>If MCPS</u>	<u>And OTHER JURISDICTIONS</u>	<u>Then Buses to Other JURISDICTIONS</u>
Is On time	Are Delayed	Will be Delayed
Is Delayed	Are On time	Will be Delayed
Is Delayed	Are Closed	There will be No transportation
Is Closed	Are Delayed	There will be No transportation
Has Early dismissal	Have Normal schedule	Will have Early dismissal
Has Normal schedule	Have Early dismissal	Will have Early Dismissal