Montgomery County Public Schools
UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

MCPS OPERATING STATUS

A family guide to weather and emergency changes

Know the color codes. Know when to check. Know where to look.

KNOW THE COLOR CODES

GREEN

NORMAL OPERATIONS
Schools and offices open on time. Childcare and community use occur as scheduled.

YELLOW

DELAYED OPENING
Schools, offices and morning buses run two hours late. Schools dismiss at the usual time. Childcare programs (morning, all-day, and after-school) may operate as scheduled; families should contact their provider for more information.

BLUE

EARLY DISMISSAL
Schools close at the announced time. Afternoon and evening school and community activities are canceled. Childcare programs may continue to operate; families are encouraged to contact their childcare provider

ORANGE

SCHOOLS CLOSED / OFFICES OPEN
Schools are closed. School and central offices open on time. MCPS-sponsored activities are canceled. Childcare programs may operate as scheduled, families are encouraged to contact their childcare provider.

RED

SCHOOL SYSTEM CLOSED
Schools and offices are closed. All activities, childcare and community use are canceled.

PURPLE

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION DAY
School and office buildings are closed, staff and students report virtually. Instruction takes place online; classes begin two hours later than the normal schedule. Your school will reach out with more information. Before- and after-school programs and community use are canceled.

HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

Safety comes first. MCPS reviews National Weather Service forecasts, road and traffic conditions, and information from county response agencies and other area school districts.

BY	BY	BY
7 PM	**5 AM**	**10:30 AM**
Evening Decision	**Morning Decision**	**Early Dismissal**

Early dismissal timing applies when weather may affect afternoon transportation.

GET OFFICIAL UPDATES

MCPS WEBSITE	www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
ALERT MCPS / MCPS ALERTA	Sign up: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps
PARENTSQUARE ALERT	Learn more about ParentSquare and sign up at the QR code
SOCIAL MEDIA	X: @mcps | Facebook: @mcpsmd | Instagram: @mcps_md
SCHOOL WEBSITE	Check your school homepage
MCPS EMERGENCY HOTLINE	Call (240) 740-3010 (English / español)

Full details and program exceptions: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/closing

Montgomery County Public Schools 2026