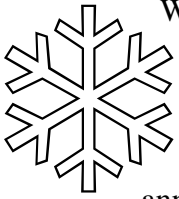


USD 497 INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

When will I know if schools are closed?



When a decision can be made the preceding night, the district's goal is to make an announcement by

10 p.m. In most cases, a decision won't be made until morning. The goal is to announce by 6 a.m. if schools are closed. No announcement is made if schools are in session as scheduled.

If schools remain in session, parents have the option to keep their children home for health and safety reasons. Please notify your child's school of this decision.

Who makes the decision?

The superintendent of schools confers with district administrators and First Student, the district's student transportation provider, and makes the decision based upon safety, current weather conditions, the weather forecast and the condition of roads, sidewalks and school parking lots.

How do I find out if schools are closed?

The school district will use its SchoolMessenger automated notification system to deliver a recorded school closing message by phone to staff and students.

School closing calls will be sent by 10 p.m. or 6 a.m., or as soon as an announcement is made.

The district also posts school closing announcements on its website (www.usd497.org) and answering machine at 832-5000.

Use local and area media outlets (radio, television, newspapers and media websites) for school closing announcements. The district notifies Lawrence, Topeka and Kansas City media of school closings.

Most media do not announce if schools are going to be open. If there is no announcement, it is likely classes are in session.



Are employees on duty when schools are closed?

The district's Educational Support and Distribution Center at 110 McDonald Drive is open and staffed.

School employees with 12-month contracts, including school administrators and custodians, report to their buildings for duty.

Schools are not able to provide care for children who arrive when buildings are closed. Parents will be contacted to pick up children.



What happens if the weather worsens during the school day?

The district tries to avoid unexpected early dismissals. However, on occasion, early dismissal is unavoidable. Parents should make prior arrangements for supervision of their children.

It is important for schools to be able to reach parents and designated child care providers during daytime hours. Please make sure schools have accurate daytime telephone numbers and emergency contact information.

When it is necessary to dismiss children early during a regular school day, the district will contact parents and area media outlets.

If weather conditions worsen and schools remain open, parents may choose to pick up their children early after informing school staff.

What cold weather provisions are made for elementary recess?

Elementary recess is held indoors if the temperature or wind chill falls below 15 degrees.

Children should always wear appropriate clothing, including winter coats, hats, gloves or mittens, and boots, to school during cold-weather months.

Please note: Inclement weather announcements do not affect the schedules of the Lawrence Virtual Schools.