



PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

December 1, 2023

Dear Pennsbury School Community,

The recent snow flurries remind us that winter weather will soon be upon us, bringing possible school closures or delayed openings and early dismissals. I would like to walk you through the process of how we make those decisions.

### **How is a weather-related closing or delay decision made?**

In the early morning hours, we study weather forecasts and conditions in the community and confer with area superintendents. The final decision rests on my shoulders with advice from our Director of Facilities, the local emergency services personnel, and other key administrators. There are numerous factors to consider, with the safety of students and staff at the top of the list.

### **Will all weather-related closures be virtual learning days?**

- No, we built two (2) weather days into our calendar.
- **The first two (2) weather days will be traditional, old-school snow days for students (no school, no homework for students).**
- After these two days are used, on day three (3), we will transition to remote learning for weather-related closings. This will allow us to count these days as instructional days and avoid lengthening the school year.

### **How will we inform families about a weather decision?**

- The decision to close schools or have a delayed opening will be made no later than 5:30 a.m. An early dismissal must be determined prior to 10 a.m.
- As in the past, we will notify families of a school closing, delay, or early dismissal by phone. This communication will occur between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m. for a closing and by 10:00 a.m. for an early dismissal. Families will receive a phone call, email notification, and text message (if opted in).
- Families will receive notifications using the contact information listed in PowerSchool.
- Closure or delay information will also be placed on the district website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Whenever possible, we will make a decision the night before a weather emergency. In those cases, communication will be sent before 10:00 p.m.

As we begin the season of ice, snow, and cold and the challenges that winter weather brings, I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

This time of year also provides a great opportunity to attend one of our many school performances. [You can find the District activity calendar here.](#)

Sincerely,  
Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
[tsmith@pennsburysd.org](mailto:tsmith@pennsburysd.org)

**MISSION**

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.