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Inclement Weather Protocols: 2025-2026

November 5, 2025

St. Cloud Area
School District



Guiding Principles in School Closures



St. Cloud Regional Partnership

- The Sartell-St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids-Rice and St. Cloud Area School Districts have agreed to make school closure decisions together.
- Each district has its own weather closure make up plan, however.



Staff & Student Safety

- When making decisions about weather-related school closures, our priority is the safety of our students, families, and staff.
- We make weather-related closure decisions for the good of the many. If families believe they need to keep their child home from school during inclement weather, they may choose to do so. To be considered an excused absence, however, families must alert the school online through Skyward or the attendance line.

Access to Education

If we must close, the following plan will go into effect:

- We will have a traditional "snow day" with no classes or work, typically for the first full day closure.
- We may also have five flexible learning days during which students receive instruction through choice boards (PK-5) or Schoology (6-12) and have access to teachers and support staff.
- Following day 6 of total closures, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board Chair, will determine if make-up days will be required.

Predictable Decision-Making: Cold Weather

For cold-weather related closure decisions, we will use the following criteria :

- 35 degrees below zero temperatures (either base temperature or wind chill) forecasted or reported
- Temperature determination based on 56301 zip code using 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: Inclement Weather

For inclement weather closures, the following factors will be considered:

- Forecasted snow, ice, wind, fog and accumulation of weather factors.
- Current road-conditions as reported by internal transportation teams and local municipalities.

Timely Decision Making

Whenever possible, we will make decisions about closures or delays the evening prior.

- Evening communication will come by phone, text and email prior to 9:00 pm, if we are able to make the determination.
- Morning communication will be made between 5:15am - 6:00am.
- We will avoid early-release closures whenever possible.

Communication is done through:

- phone via School Messenger (so please don't block our number).
- text, if you've opted in.
- website, as an emergency pop-up banner.
- local and state-wide media outlets.

Important Considerations

Families should make a care plan for your child in advance of any weather-related school closures and communicate to your child's teacher if in PK-5. KidStop is unavailable during inclement weather closures but will provide childcare during cold-weather closures at select locations.

Early childhood classes and services are cancelled in the event of any late-starts.

All district facilities will be closed in the event of weather-related closures and no activities practices, games* or evening classes, including Adult Basic Education, McKinley Night School, and Community Education, will be held.

*Rare exceptions may be made in the event of state-level competitions and only on the agreement of the Superintendents involved.

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Thank you!