



Winter weather emergency procedures in the Juneau School District

The City and Borough of Juneau and the Alaska Department of Transportation work hard each winter to clear and remove snow around our community. The Juneau School District appreciates the extra effort these agencies take in prioritizing the areas surrounding our schools. School maintenance and custodial staff shovel sidewalks and clear parking lots early each day. As homeowners, we can help by making sure that our sidewalks and driveways are clear for students on walking routes to school. Working together we can create a safe environment for our children.

Despite these best efforts, sometimes weather conditions make it necessary to close school. It is important for families to know how the school district communicates school closures or schedule changes. These same procedures are followed for other emergencies.

Remember - during inclement weather, even though school may be in session, you know the conditions in your immediate neighborhood and are the best judge of whether or not to send your child to school.

The decision to close schools is generally made by 5:00 a.m. by the Superintendent in consultation with the First Student Bus Company Manager, City and Borough of Juneau City Manager and the National Weather Service Juneau Forecast Office.

School closures or schedule changes are posted by 6:00 a.m. at www.juneauschools.org. An alert banner with emergency information will appear at the top of the page. Notifications go out through the *Juneau Borough Schools App* and are sent to local media outlets.

In the event of a school closure, automated phone calls, emails, and text messages are sent to families at 6:30 a.m. The notification system uploads data from PowerSchool each night, so please make sure your phone numbers are current at your child's school.

Be prepared by dressing your child for the weather conditions each day. Please talk to your child about safe walking routes to school and staying a safe distance from the road while waiting at the bus stop. Reflective tape on clothing and flashlights can help drivers see children on dark days.

Make an emergency plan with your children in the event that schools are closed, start late, or are dismissed early. Talk about where to go or what to do if a parent is not at home. Check with your school or www.juneauschools.org to find "snow routes" for your child's school bus.

The Juneau School District appreciates your support in keeping children safe in times of severe weather conditions and emergencies.