

As you know the weather in Highland County can vary from no precipitation to ice and snow. The weather can be different in Blue Grass to Doe Hill to Monterey to other parts of the county. If school needs to be delayed or closed, and your part of the county seems to be ok, please keep in mind that other parts of the county may be having extreme weather. With that in mind I would like to take this opportunity to provide our families with information concerning our inclement weather decisions. Our first and most important priority is to insure the safety of all our students. While the decision to open, close, or delay the school start time can be complicated due to changing and unpredictable weather occurrences, it is our goal to inform our families as soon as possible using a variety of communication avenues.

Who makes the Decision?

The superintendent makes the decision after consulting with the multiple agencies, looking at weather radar, NOAA, and multiple weather prediction websites.

When will the decision be made?

We know that many plans need to be made when school is closed or delayed. Whenever possible a decision will be reached on a school delay or school closing by 9pm the night before. In many circumstances the unpredictable weather may make it necessary to make the call early in the morning. If this is the case the decision will be made by 5:45am. This will allow time for us to broadcast to all media sources.

What factors influence the decision?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions.
- Amount of snow and/or ice accumulated.
- Whether precipitation is continuing or expected to continue.
- Building conditions (whether we have electricity, heat, water and communication abilities).
- Parking lot and sidewalk conditions.
- Temperature and wind chill factors.
- Weather predictions. We prefer not making our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But sometimes this is unavoidable.
- What other school districts are doing, but remember the weather in Highland is very unique.

How to find out if school is closed

Television

WSLS (10)

WHSV (3)

WDBJ (7)

WFXS Fox News

Radio

WVLS (89.7)

WXLX (K92)

WSVA (55.1)

Other

Facebook

School Webpage

You will receive an phone call from our Blackboard

Connect Emergency calling system.

You can call school information 468-6305

Information you will see or hear

Code 1 – school is closed for all students and employees

Code 2 – School is closed for all students, teachers report at 12

Code 3 – School is closed for all

Inclement Weather Policy

A late opening will be required if the temperature is in single digits and we have a wind chill of minus 10 or below. **OR** the temperature is 0 or below.

What about early closings?

Every effort is made to keep the students in school for their full day once they arrive. If conditions are severe and warrant an early closing, the information will be on the district web site, Facebook, posted on TV and radio stations, and parents/guardians will be notified by phone through our Blackboard Connect emergency calling system.

Parent's decision

I want to reiterate that parents are the final authority as to whether or not you believe it is safe for your child to go to school. If you believe that it is too cold or the snow is too deep or the weather is too unsettled, your decision may be to keep your child home.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you.

Dr. Thomas J. Schott

Superintendent

Highland County Public Schools