

Winter Weather Protocol

Student and staff safety while traveling to and from school is the ultimate factor when deciding if school should be cancelled in District 186. The decision to call off school is never easy and several factors are used in making the decision to have school or not. We will make this decision as early as possible, no later than 5:30 a.m., so that we can follow our school closure protocol. The deciding factors include but are not limited to the following:

1. We consider road conditions in snowy and icy weather.
2. We consider the amount and type of predicted precipitation (snow, ice, sleet and freezing rain).
3. We consider the temperature (especially the wind-chill) alone or in combination with the type and amount of precipitation that has already fallen or is predicted throughout the school day.
4. We consider the weather forecast, the local radar and predicted changes in weather throughout the school day.

Weather related decisions regarding school closures begin the night before a weather event by monitoring the forecast, considering information regarding road conditions, and thorough consultation with local authorities, First Student Bus Company, and the Operations and Maintenance Department of District 186. Representatives of District 186 will drive the roads as part of this decision.

School Closure Protocol

As soon as the decision is made to close school, it will appear on the main page of the **District 186 website**. This is the fastest way to learn about the decision to close schools. It will also be featured through local media outlets including radio and television. A **ParentLink message** will be sent, which will call and text families directly. In order to receive a text, you must sign up for this option on the District Information System or through the school office.

We will notify the following news outlets:

SJ-R	WIBI
Midwest Family Broadcasting	WLUF
WICS – Channel 20	WBUI
WCIA – Channel 3	Clear Channel
WAND – Channel 17	
Capital Radio Group	
WUIS	