

Inclement Weather and Safety Guidelines

The Paulding County School District understands that providing a safe learning environment for our students is critical. Local safety teams, administrators, and district office personnel meet regularly to plan and educate one another to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Parents are encouraged to visit the Safety link on our district website: www.paulding.k12.ga.us, select Departments; select Safety. The Safety First Handbook provides parents a summary of the various safety initiatives taking place in our district. On this link parents can also view the Focused on Safety newsletters that are sent to our employees quarterly.

The primary purpose for this letter is to provide some very important information to all parents regarding actions that should be taken in the event of school closings, delayed school openings, severe weather, and other crisis situations.

In many of the situations listed below, parents may be called via One Call Now, our parent notification service. It is important that the names and phone numbers in the student information system are correct. If your address, home phone or cellular phone numbers have changed recently, please contact your child's school to make updates.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCE

Whenever there are threats of winter weather conditions, the district administrative staff begins monitoring conditions while receiving regular updates from the Paulding County Sheriff's Department. Once a decision is made, calls are sent out to all district and school administrators. A call is placed to all parents and staff using One Call Now. Local television stations are notified. The school district website is updated with the closing information.

DELAYED SCHOOL OPENING

In the event that weather conditions warrant, the beginning of a school day could be delayed. If that situation should occur, school opening would be delayed until 10:00 a.m. A call through One Call Now would be sent out as soon as the decision is made.

EARLY RELEASE FROM SCHOOL

There may be times when an unexpected weather situation occurs after school has already begun, and an early release from school becomes necessary. Once that decision has been made, an immediate call would be made to parents using our One Call Now parent notification system. Schools would begin the process of dismissal in reverse of the normal order. High schools and middle schools would dismiss first, followed by elementary schools. By reversing the order of dismissal, we provide our least experienced drivers the opportunity to arrive home sooner, and allow older siblings to be home when their younger siblings arrive.

