

What Does the Superintendent Consider When “Closing Schools” Due to Weather?

Submitted by John Grabowski, Superintendent

The Trumbull County Educational Service Center, in association with the Trumbull County’s Superintendents’ Association, has the following plan regarding closing schools for weather conditions (snow or temperature).

In that plan the Superintendents are clustered into four (4) regions due to weather patterns in the County. Those regions are:

- North: Badger, Bristol, Bloomfield and Maplewood
- Central: Lakeview, Brookfield, Champion, Mathews and Southington
- Southeast: LaBrae, Howland, Lordstown, Newton Falls, Warren and Parochial
- Southwest: Liberty, Fairhaven, Girard and Parochial, Hubbard and Parochial, McDonald, Niles and Parochial, and Weathersfield.

There is a lead Superintendent assigned per region to talk with superintendents within his/her region regarding opinion of the weather conditions. These conversations may start the night before or as early as 4:00 a.m. on the day of weather concerns.

After gathering opinions of superintendents in their regions, the lead superintendents of each of the 4 regions confer and a decision is made to either close or stay open.

The network model helps each superintendent have the input of fellow superintendents in her/her region and countywide before making the decision to close or stay open.

Even though every superintendent can make his/her own decision, the decision is usually the same within the region’s school districts.

CHAMPION SCHOOL DISTRICT CLOSURES DUE TO THE FOLLOWING WEATHER CONDITIONS:

1. Close all school buildings due to snow when road conditions are determined by the Superintendent to be **unsafe for school bus operation**. School buses transport approximately 1,000 students a day. The rest of the students arrive as walkers, student drivers (about 100), and parent drop-offs.
2. Close all school buildings due to extreme cold, as determined by the superintendent.

Road conditions for student drivers are not a determining factor for closing schools.

- Student driving is a privilege granted to students
- Approximately 100 students drive their cars compared to the 1,000 transported by bus.
- The School District provides bus transportation for all students.
- The School District provides space on buses for all enrolled students, even those students who are driving.

For questions or concerns: Please contact Mr. John Grabowski, Superintendent @ john.grabowski@championlocal.org or by calling 330-847-2330, Ext. 2.