

Dear Parents, Patrons, and Staff:

I am writing this letter to offer some helpful guidelines to aid you in making your daily decisions regarding how and when to send your children to school. We check road and weather conditions many times during the day or before events. It is impossible to determine exactly what weather conditions are going to be. We do our best to predict, but the only time we really know how bad the weather will be is after the fact. In reality, you make the decision every day as to whether your child will attend school or not. Here are some basic beliefs and guidelines for you to consider. We will make every effort to only have school if the weather is appropriate.

I do believe that School Bus Transportation is the safest way to get to school. Our drivers are very careful, and they take the time necessary to get the children to school safely. All buses are equipped with radios, so we are in constant contact in the event of an emergency. Bus drivers will provide additional time on extremely cold days so that your child does not have to stand in freezing conditions very long. We just ask that you watch for the bus to not delay other students that may be waiting for the bus.

If you are going to allow your son or daughter to drive to school, please make sure that they are aware of the road conditions. Normally, the best route to school is to try to get to a major road or highway. These usually get the best treatment. Sit down with your child and plan a longer route if necessary. We would rather have them take a little extra time and be safe rather than just trying to get to school in the fastest way.

Respectfully,

Branden Roeder

Superintendent

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

BELIEFS

- Weather conditions are both variable and extreme in Indiana.
- Concrete rules do not exist for making decisions regarding variable and extreme weather, but these guidelines will serve as a reference for the Rising Sun-Ohio County School Corporation. (RSOCS)
- RSOCS believes the public expects schools to be open and to provide education, supervision, and other services (including meals) to our students.
- RSOCS believes all parents are committed to keeping children safe, and these parents will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending the children to school.
- RSOCS recognizes that it's first and foremost a parental decision to determine if a child should attend school on inclement weather days.
- RSOCS respects a parent's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open or delayed because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.

COMMUNICATION

- On a normal school day, it will be announced no later than 6:30 AM if we are delaying and/or closing. The decision has to be made prior to 6:00 AM as that is our first bus departure.
- Following a delay, it will be announced no later than 8:30 AM if we are closing.
- Our schools are equipped with a phone messaging device. In the event of an early dismissal, we will send out a call to the phone number you have designated. Please also update the school with an accurate email account.
- Our school has an active Facebook page named Rising Sun-Ohio County Community Schools, and the superintendent has a personal twitter account (@RisingSunSupt). These are two additional locations on which the school will post information about delays, closings, and dismissals. Our website will also provide information in the top right hand side declaring a snow day or delay.
- Currently, our weather related announcements are broadcast on the following radio and television stations:

Radio

Eagle 99.3 FM
Froggy 95.9 FM
WLW 700 AM
WCKY 1530 AM

Television

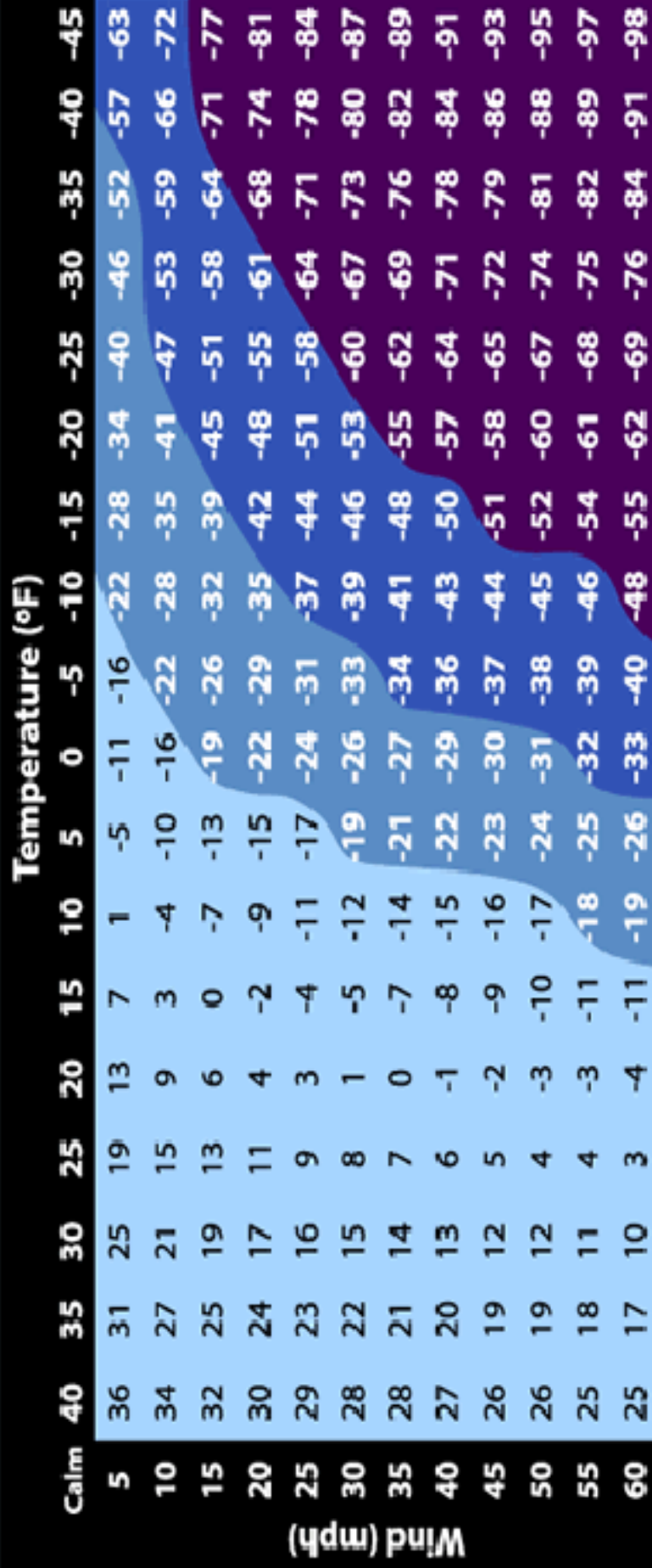
WCPO CHANNEL 9
WLW CHANNEL 5
WKRC CHANNEL 12
WSTR CHANNEL 64
WXIX CHANNEL 19
CINCI.COM

VARIABLES FOR DELAYING OR CLOSING SCHOOL

- **Freezing Rain/Sleet:** The most unpredictable weather variable is freezing rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature sensitive and fast-occurring. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet is predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. Such a decision will generally be made in the morning.
- **Snowfall:** Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Meteorologists generally give a 2-inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because of the variation in actual snowfall when compared to predicted snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will generally be made in the morning.
- **Extreme Snowfall Situations:** When snow has accumulated to a significant level or is at such a level with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening. A significant level is one in which local authorities have indicated it is unlikely streets will be passable by the following morning.
- **Extreme Cold (See Chart Below):** Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. RSOCS uses the hourly temperature prediction for its zip codes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov) and The Weather Channel (TWC). In addition, RSOCS uses the Wind Chill Chart from the NOAA and the frigid temperatures for varying amounts of time spent in the cold weather.
If air temperature is predicted by NOAA and/or TWC to be -10 degrees or below with calm wind (the starting point for severe wind chill concerns), the school **may consider** a delay for the start of school. If the air temperature is predicted to remain at -10 degrees or below at 8:30 AM, with calm wind, the school **may consider** closing. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, including the evening before.
- **Extreme Wind Chill (See Chart Below):** Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. While NOAA observations and predictions are based upon the open conditions of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, these predictions can vary from actual weather in Ohio County. Local observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing school.
Using the Wind Chill Chart, severe wind chill concerns or frostbite emerge at a predicted wind chill temperature at or near -20 degrees for 30 minutes.
If wind chill is predicted by NOAA to be at or near -20 degrees or below, and if local wind conditions are predicted to mirror the airport wind conditions, the school **may consider** a delay for the start of school. If the wind chill is predicted to remain at or near -20 degrees or below at 8:30 AM, the school **may consider** closing. The variability of wind speed will likely cause this decision to be made in the morning.
- **Ice Conditions:** Ohio County has limited resources to deal with the miles of roads that we have in the county. The City and County Street Departments do a fantastic job trying to clear the roads, but ice is more resistant to salt and sand. There may be portions of our county that have streets covered in ice while the other half has none.



NWS Windchill Chart



Frostbite Times 30 minutes 10 minutes 5 minutes

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})

Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph)

Effective 11/01/01