

## Hartford Area School Districts Emergency School Closing Procedures

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October, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The winter season will soon be upon us, and your school district understands that our decision to keep open or close school in bad weather has a significant effect on families. We also understand that your students are better served both academically and socially by being in school, and our top priority is the safety of all students.

We believe that you know what is best for you student. If you believe he/she would be safer at home in poor weather conditions, he/she will be marked excused. In addition, if you are uncomfortable with the weather conditions throughout a poor weather day, we would encourage you to act upon that belief, communicate with your school's principal, and make the necessary arrangements to pick up your student.

**A. Please be advised that the following information is considered in all decisions to open or close school due to inclement weather.**

1. Information from city, county, and/or state officials focused on road conditions, and both short and long term weather forecasts.
2. Information from our bus transportation companies, including their individual recommendations focused on road safety for buses.
3. Discussion with our supervisors of building and grounds to ensure that parking lots can be open for parking before and after the school day.

**B. In addition, the Hartford area superintendents work collaboratively to open or close school in bad weather. We consider the information in A. above, and we take into account the following factors.**

1. Temperature, including wind chill factor.
2. Wind velocity impacting the blowing and drifting of snow.
3. Buses running routes at a slower pace and having an impact on how long students wait at bus stops.
4. Parents/guardians driving their students to school in poor driving conditions, and high school students with little experience in poor road conditions, driving to school.
5. Number of inches of existing and projected snowfall.

Please note that Hartford Area schools typically will not implement late starts or early dismissals due to inclement weather. Through past experience, we have learned that coordinating transportation in such cases is not possible due to a lack of available bus drivers. In addition, an early dismissal introduces the risk of sending young students home to empty houses. The area superintendents believe that knowing students are inside, safe, warm, and learning is a better choice than unintentionally sending students home to an empty house.

To acquire up-to-date school closing information, please utilize the following resources.

- **FOX 6 News:** [www.fox6now.com](http://www.fox6now.com)
- **WISN TV 12:** [www.wisn.com](http://www.wisn.com)
- **WTMJ TV 4:** [www.tmj4.com](http://www.tmj4.com)
- **WTMJ 620 AM:** [www.620wtmj.com](http://www.620wtmj.com)
- **WKTI 94.5 FM:** [www.945lakefm.com](http://www.945lakefm.com)
- **WTKM 1540 AM/104.9 FM:** [www.wtkmradio.com](http://www.wtkmradio.com)

Sincerely,

#### **Hartford Area Superintendents/Principals and Website Links**

*Kieth A. Kriewaldt, Ed. D., Superintendent*  
[Erin School District](#)

*John Engstrom, Superintendent*  
[Friess Lake School District](#)

*Attila J. Weninger, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent*  
[Hartford Union High School District](#)

*Dennis Kaczor, Superintendent*  
[HNR School District](#)

*Ben Washburn, Principal*  
[Peace Lutheran School](#)

*Tara Villalobos, Superintendent*  
[Richfield Joint School District #1](#)

*Mark T. Smits, Ph.D., Superintendent*  
[School District of Hartford Joint #1](#)

*Steve Hamilton, Principal*  
[St. Gabriel Catholic School](#)

*Jen Trimberger, Principal*  
[St. Kilian's Catholic School](#)