

As the New England winter weather is fast approaching, I am writing to review the process should we need to cancel or delay the start of school. We understand that the decision to open or close schools in inclement weather has a substantial effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served, both academically and socially, by being in school. Our goal, as always, is to ensure the safety of our students and staff and to provide you with information regarding closings or delayed openings in a timely fashion.

WHAT FACTORS INTO THE DECISION?

- We communicate with Canton Public Safety Officials, Public Works Administrator, School Facilities Director, and neighboring Superintendents.
- We give careful consideration to the road conditions in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. We must also consider that some high school students drive to school.
- We are informed of building conditions, such as whether we have electricity and heat.
- We are notified of parking lot conditions. Administrators talk to maintenance and custodial staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- We monitor weather predictions. Although we prefer not to make our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate, sometimes this is unavoidable.

HOW ARE YOU NOTIFIED?

Once the decision is determined, every effort is made to notify you in a timely fashion, usually early in the morning (around 5:30 AM) and possibly, although seldom, the night before. Information regarding the decision is shared in a number of ways:

Television: WCVB-TV, WBZ, WHDH, and WFXT (Please check your cable guide or station website for local listings.)

Telephone Notification System: Automated via Blackboard Connect

Website: <http://www.cantonma.org>

Twitter: @CantonSuper

Note: If an individual school only (not the entire district) is closed for any reason, the announcement will be made via Blackboard and website only, not via media channels.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, OR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO INQUIRE ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS.

ARE ACTIVITIES CANCELED?

Yes, when school is canceled, all classes and activities are canceled for the day, including evening classes, sports, and recreation programs held at the schools.

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT DELAYED OPENINGS?

When there is a delayed opening, morning bus pickup and the start of classes are postponed, depending on the length of the stated delay. With a delayed opening, lunch, afternoon dismissals, and all other school activities take place at their regularly scheduled times.

START TIMES FOR DELAYED OPENINGS

School	1 Hour Delayed	90 Minute Delayed	2 Hour Delay
Lt. Peter M. Hansen	9:35 AM	10:05 AM	10:35 AM
John F. Kennedy	10:05 AM	10:35 AM	11:05 AM
Rodman Preschool	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Dean S. Luce	9:35 AM	10:05 AM	10:35 AM
Galvin Middle School	8:50 AM	9:20 AM	9:50 AM
Canton High School	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM

Staff report to school according to the delayed opening schedule. Please do not send children to school early on delayed opening days, as staff will not be available for supervision.

WHAT IF MY CHILD ATTENDS THE BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM?

Families will be contacted by the before school provider with guidance. Typically, the before school program would also have a delayed start that would coincide with the length of the delay.

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT EARLY RELEASE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER?

A storm may occur during the day that requires us to dismiss earlier than expected. Please develop an appropriate plan for your child(ren) if an unplanned early release is necessary. In these cases, all extended day programs and after school activities are canceled.

DO YOU HAVE OPTIONS?

YES! Although we do our absolute best in this process, we know that often there is no perfect decision. If based on the current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your child(ren) to attend school, as the parent/guardian, you may decide not to send your child(ren) to school. Such absences are recorded as excused. Please call your school to report the absence. Students absent due to storm-related reasons will be given the full opportunity to make-up all work for that day.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your school's Principal or the Superintendent's Office at 781-821-5060, ext 1134.

Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools