

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURE

With winter weather pending, it's time to remind district patrons of the procedures we follow when school closure becomes necessary. When we have adverse weather conditions come up during the night, a decision needs to be made by 6:00 a.m. whether or not to hold school. The transportation company supervisor goes out and drives the bus routes and weather forecasts are consulted. The decision to hold classes or cancel school for the day is made based upon whether or not we believe it is safe to transport children to school. If the roads are wet and the temperature drops below freezing during the night, we may have icy conditions on our roads that are dangerous. Should the weather forecast indicate that it will thaw, we may simply delay our buses and the start of school for a specified period of time.

In either case, if school is delayed or canceled, it will be announced over area radio stations, including KLOO 1340 AM, KLOO 106.3 FM, and KRKT 99.9 FM, KXPC 103.7 FM. Stations are notified by 6:00 a.m. Eugene TV station KEZI (channel 9) is also notified, and the information is posted on the school web site @ www.philomath.k12.or.us. The district also subscribes to a system called **FlashAlert**. You are able to self-register and manage up to three home or office email and/or cell phone text message addresses and receive emergency information just minutes after posted, at no cost to you. < See the instructions to sign up at the bottom of this page>.

Sometimes, depending on where you live in the area, the decision to not hold school may seem unnecessary. Patrons are reminded that the decision is made on the basis of our concern for the safety of all our children, and while conditions may look great in one location, they may be treacherous in other parts of the district.

Conversely, the decision to hold school may not seem to be a good one to some parents based upon road conditions near their home. The school district always respects and appreciates the judgment of parents in such cases. Anytime parents feel that it is unsafe to send their children to school, they are encouraged to keep their children at home. Any such absence would be excused.

Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to dismiss school early and send children home before the regular time. This would happen only in serious emergencies or if the threat of adverse conditions makes it imperative. We are very reluctant to send children home early, especially in bad weather, because sending a child home to a locked house where he/she might be unattended and unsheltered for several hours could well be worse than keeping them at school and running the risk of slick roads, rising water, etc.

Parents who feel that approaching weather conditions make it important for their children to go home are encouraged to come to the school(s) and pick their children up.

If it should become necessary to send children home early, we would make an effort to telephone as many parents as possible (provided the phone is in service). This is another reason why it is so important that the school have telephone numbers of those who should be contacted if the parents cannot be reached. In addition to the telephone, we would make such an announcement via the same radio stations listed above.

Flash Alert Notification

Flash Alert - To receive a text or email message, you may register at www.FlashAlert.net – Select “Eugene” on the map, select “Benton County Schools” from the choices, select “Philomath School District” next, then follow the directions to subscribe.