



Media Release

Student safety is our first priority and a shared responsibility. The Wetaskiwin Regional Public School (WRPS) spans a large geographical area and we understand that some areas may be more difficult to travel to than others. It's a parent's decision if you choose to keep your child home due to road conditions. Please call the school and let them know if your child is staying home. The decision to attend school is the responsibility of each family.

WRPS administration has reviewed the process that it uses to cancel buses and close schools during inclement weather and other emergencies. Listed below are the [changes](#):

- WRPS may be closing schools during inclement weather. This will be a change for parents and staff. In the past our schools have stayed open regardless of the weather and driving conditions. The rationale for closing some or all of our schools is that there are times when it is not safe for parents or staff to be on the road due to the adverse road conditions.
- WRPS may decide to close some schools and keep other schools open given that the weather can be very different from the eastern part of our school division to the western boundary. This will be clearly communicated to parents and staff.
- In the event that schools are closed, we will make arrangements for one of our staff to be at the school for the first hour of the day to ensure students who are inadvertently dropped off can stay warm. Parents will be contacted to come and pick up these students.
- During inclement weather, emergencies, power outages or similar incidents, it is a priority to communicate effectively to parents, students and staff. We work closely with our community partners to gather accurate information about road conditions and safety considerations to make well informed decisions in the interest of safety for all.
- We will work quickly to determine impacts to schools so parents can adjust plans accordingly in the early morning hours. We try to determine school closures due to inclement weather by 7:00 am.

Families will be notified in advance through **School Messenger**, by way of an email and text message. Notification will be sent out to families shortly after **7:00 am**. **Families please make sure your school has an active email address that is checked regularly.**

Our **website** www.wrps11.ca should be used as the **primary point of contact** for accurate updates about school closures and bus cancellations. Please use this website as your official source of information and current status. Updates will also be posted on the Wetaskiwin School Division's social media pages: Facebook and Instagram.