

723.1 EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The safety, health, and physical well-being of its students and employees is a priority of the District. In certain circumstances, a decision to close school due to a health or safety concern for a full or partial day may apply only to one or more individual schools. Buses will run whenever and wherever weather permits. In the event of inclement weather or other health or safety concerns such as a communicable disease outbreak, a credible threat to safety, damage to a building, or a utility failure which cause a need for an emergency school closing, announcements regarding school closings or early dismissal will be made via the District electronic messaging system to families, the Nixle alert system, local media outlets, and the WRPS webpage in accordance with established procedures.

The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee in the temporary absence or unavailability of the Superintendent, shall make decisions regarding school closings, early releases, and any program or activity cancellations due to inclement weather or due to other health or safety concerns. If any school is closed by an order of a local health officer or by an order of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the administration shall implement the order.

When any District school is closed under this policy for a reason other than inclement weather, the administration shall ensure that the Department of Public Instruction is promptly notified of the closing and reopening of the school(s) and of the reason(s) for and length of the closure(s).

Event Cancellation

If inclement weather or other issues raise questions concerning the safe completion of co-curricular trips that are scheduled after school or on weekends, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall have final authority to determine whether or not the trip will take place. If a scheduled trip is canceled, it is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to inform participants.

Remote Learning During a School Closure

The District is committed to providing students with a continuity in educational services in the event of an emergency school closing, and supports innovative instructional design including the implementation of remote learning as a means of delivering quality instruction that ensures all students have access to high quality learning experiences and support from teachers. Remote learning would typically be implemented at a time when any extra hours built into the academic calendar (e.g., “snow days”) beyond the required hours of instruction set by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) have been exhausted, or at the discretion of administration.

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, may direct a full or partial day of remote/virtual learning for specific grade level(s) or for one or more District schools on any day that a school is closed under this policy, subject to the following requirements and limitations and to any more specific direction or authority that may be given by the Board of Education for the specific school year.

Remote Learning Expectations

1. In the event of an emergency school closing, all students shall participate in remote learning activities. All students will have access to remote learning materials and resources either through learning packets sent home in advance for students from 4K - Grade 5 and/or through the District’s learning management system for grades K-12.
2. The school will regularly communicate the remote learning plan to students and families through various methods including email, website, newsletters and learning management systems.

3. Each building administrator has developed the building's plan for remote learning, including attendance policies and teacher office hours. Staff members will adhere to these expectations.
4. Teachers will be available during regular school hours to provide support and answer questions via email or other communication methods which may include video/virtual meetings.
5. Teachers will have designated office hours which will be communicated to students and families, in order to answer questions and provide support. Families and students are encouraged to reach out to the teacher with any questions or concerns at any time.
6. Students will be expected to participate in remote learning activities and complete assignments to the best of their ability in a timely manner.
7. Students who are unable to participate in remote learning due to an absence or technical issue will be given an opportunity to make up the work. Accommodations will be made for students who do not have access to technology or internet resources to ensure that all students have equal access to remote learning opportunities.
8. Attendance will be taken during remote learning days in Grades 9-12 and will be documented in the same manner as on-site attendance days. Students experiencing technical issues or who are absent for other reasons on a remote learning day should have that absence reported to the school attendance office.
9. Teachers will provide feedback and grades for assigned work in a timely manner.
10. Students with individualized learning plans will receive accommodations for remote learning as outlined in their IEPs, 504 Plans, or Individual Language Plans. Teachers will work with students and families to ensure that students receive appropriate support.
11. In the event of a prolonged school emergency closing, the District may adjust the remote learning plan to ensure the continuation of student learning and progress.

The District will provide training and support for staff members, students, and families to ensure successful implementation of the remote learning policy.

District administration shall determine the daily schedule of any such full or partial days of remote learning and the number of hours/minutes that may appropriately be counted as hours of direct student instruction. Subject to the reason for the school closure and applicable safety considerations, the administration may also determine that some students with special educational needs may be permitted to receive instruction or services at the school or at an alternate site. The administration will monitor and evaluate the remote learning program to make any necessary adjustments and ensure its effectiveness and efficiency.

LEGAL REF.:	Sections	115.01(10) 121.02(1)(f) PI 8	Wisconsin Statutes Wisconsin Administrative Code
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CROSS REF.:	321, School Calendar 723.1 Rule, Emergency School Closing Procedures
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APPROVED: September 11, 1980

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May 8, 2023