

**SALVATORE GONCALVES**  
Superintendent of Schools

Jaynellen Behre-Jenkins  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Curriculum

Patricia Wilson  
Business Administrator

Linda Colucci  
Director of Special Services

Nicholas J. Dotoli, Ed.M., Esq.  
Director of Human Resources/  
General Counsel

Joanne Decker  
Director of Technology

August 2014,

As the winter months approach, we realize how much impact such a decision to open or close schools in bad weather can have on families. While we know that students are better served academically and socially by being in school, our top priority is the safety of our students. This message is to clarify some questions regarding decisions made about inclement weather closings.

### **How do we make our decision?**

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather after carefully analyzing all relevant factors, such as:

- ***Information on road conditions from key district and police personnel.***
- ***Amount of snow and ice accumulated.***
- ***Future weather predictions.***
- ***Predications for continuation of precipitation.***
- ***Temperature and wind chill that can affect our salting and de-icing efforts.***
- ***Parking lot conditions.***
- ***Building conditions such as whether we have electricity and heat.***
- ***Decisions of other neighboring school districts.***

### **QUESTION: Who makes the decision?**

As Superintendent of Schools, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from key district personnel and local officials.

### **QUESTION: When is the decision made?**

We try to gather enough information to make the decision and begin to advise key staff no later than 5:30 am. This is to allow us to communicate that decision in time to avoid parents leaving for work without having made childcare arrangements. It is also to avoid having staff members who leave for work early turning around once they get here. If a decision is made the evening before, notification will be made as soon as possible.

**QUESTION: How is the public notified?**

As soon as the decision is made, we will activate the district's automated CODE RED phone system. This is our primary means of communication in times of emergency. It is important that the telephone data we have on file for your family is current. We will also notify cable and network TV stations (BETV, NJ News12, FOXNews, WABC, WNBC). In addition, our website [www.bloomfield.k12.nj.us](http://www.bloomfield.k12.nj.us) will post all closings.

Although my staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that there are times when no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, by all means use your best judgment as to whether or not he or she should attend. I hope the above information has at least helped explain the process we follow.



Salvatore Goncalves  
Superintendent of Schools

---

---