

Happy Winter Season:

The weather has shifted and we are starting to see colder days and more snow. It is necessary to adjust the school schedule at times. The following information will help you be prepared and understand the announcements made on School Messenger and or text message.



If you would like to receive our school alert messages regarding cancellations, postponements, delays, etc. Please contact Mr. Humphrey or Beth Peppers. We upgraded our system and there have been a few flaws or if your number has changed it will not have been updated.

If you have blocked school messenger calls, emails or texts you may not receive these notices.

### **How is the Decision Made?**

The decision to delay, close, or dismiss school early is largely dependent on the current weather conditions and what is anticipated to happen in the hours to come. It is my preference to make an announcement the night before to allow families the maximum amount of time to prepare for a change in schedule. If a decision is not made the night before, an effort is made to make some type of decision and announce it around 6:00 AM. This is not always feasible as the weather can change quickly in Iowa.

Weather decisions are frequently made in collaboration with area superintendents, transportation and maintenance directors. At times it makes sense to make a common decision between districts but this is not always the case. Weather conditions vary; what is happening in the Exira-EHK School District may be different than what is happening in a different district. Ultimately, a decision is made that is believed to be safe and appropriate for the Exira-EHK District.

Road conditions are a very important part of the decision that is made. We do check roads using information from the DOT, specific internet sites, driving some various roads and routes, and consulting with others in the area. It may be that some roads are better than others and it is not possible to drive every road. We understand, you as a parent/guardian will need to make the ultimate decision about the safety of the conditions and ability to bring your child to school. Please contact your school office by phone or email to communicate with them about your student's attendance.

Weather predictions are not always accurate. Advancements with technology have helped us be more accurate but make weather-related decisions remains to be our best-informed estimation of what might occur.

### **What Do the Decisions Mean?**

**Two Hour Delays** are normally called when it is anticipated the weather conditions will improve with a little more time. This type of decision allows road crews and staff more time to clear roads, parking lots and sidewalks to make travel easier. It also allows additional time for students, staff, and parents to arrive at school and work safely.

School start times and buses pick up times will be two hours later than normal. If school normally starts at 8:30 AM, it will start at 10:30 AM on days there is a two-hour delay. A bus that normally picks up at 7:10 AM will pick up at 9:10 AM.

Any school activity, practice or program that occurs will start two hours late unless it is specifically announced as canceled for the day.

**Morning Preschool in Exira-EHK will not held when there is a delayed start to the day.**

**Mid-day Early Dismissal** are understandably difficult for families and caregivers but they are necessary at times. This type of dismissal occurs when the weather is shifting and it is important to allow students and staff to arrive home before the weather becomes more serious or transportation is not possible. When mid-day Early Dismissal occur related to weather there will be no school activities, practices or events held. It may also occur when there is a serious problem with the facility or safety concern that must be addressed.

### **School Policy on activities on a late start, early out, or no school:**

In the case of inclement weather affecting practices for school activities, the following guidelines will be followed by all school activities:

1. Any time bad weather impacts school activities, practice, if held at all, will be optional for the participants. There will be no penalty for those that do not attend.
2. On a day when the entire school day has been cancelled, optional practices may be held later in the day only if/when conditions have improved. If approved by Superintendent or High School Principal.
3. In the case of a late start, all before school practices will be canceled.
4. In the case of an early out, all after school and evening practices will be canceled.
5. If school does not dismiss early but conditions are deteriorating activity directors/coaches should discuss the situation with the Athletic Director and/or High School Principal. Use common sense and consider not only the weather conditions but also where different participants live, how they are getting home, etc. Younger participants (fresh/soph) probably just should be sent home. Older participants, depending on how severe the conditions are, might be able to stay

for a short, optional practice. Give strong consideration to sending your out-of-town students home right away. Any participant whose parent/guardian requests they go home immediately should do exactly that, no questions asked and no penalty. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Trevor Miller  
Superintendent