

Inclement Weather Decision Timeline & General Guidelines

GCPS:

Plan ahead for any situations that require school administration to cancel, delay, or close school, especially inclement weather during the winter season.

When bad weather or other emergency situations occur, it may be necessary for Greene County Public Schools to cancel, delay, or close schools early. Parents and students should have a well-communicated plan in place in the event of these emergency situations. Families need to discuss and determine where children will go or what children will do if a parent will not be home.

How will I be notified of closures, delays, and cancellations?

- [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)
- Our [Website](#)
- Our mobile alert system, if you are not registered you can do so on [ParentPortal](#)
- Local news and radio stations

How is the decision made to cancel school for inclement weather?

The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority any time a decision must be made regarding school closures and delays during a weather situation. Greene County Public Schools Transportation Department partners with the local Virginia Department of Transportation and the Greene County Sheriff's office to get the most up-to-date information on road conditions. GCPS Transportation reports all findings to the Director of Administration and the Superintendent. GCPS buses travel roads ranging from multi-lane highways to narrow dirt roads that cross one-lane bridges and steep terrain. Often roads along the heart of the

county may be clear while those in various rural areas may be inaccessible for a longer period of time. We also inspect the conditions of roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and bus lanes on our school campuses. The decision to change the school schedule or cancel school is based on ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and community.

What are the main considerations when making an inclement weather decision?

- Road conditions for bus and car travel for students and staff
- Forecast with focus on temperature, snow accumulations, and wind
- Reports from VDOT, GCSD, Director of Transportation, Assistant Director of Transportation, Director of Administrative Services, and bus drivers
- Consultations with other area school transportation directors

What does the timeline for an inclement weather decision typically look like?

- 3:30 - 4:30am - Weather assessment of roads
- 4:30 - 4:45am - Transportation Director contacts select drivers, VDOT, GCSD, and other localities regarding road conditions, road reports, and weather forecasts
- 4:45 - 5:00am - Consultation with Director of Administrative Services with a recommendation
- 5:00 - 5:15 a.m - Director of Administrative Services provides recommendation to Superintendent
- 5:15 - 5:30am - Decision rendered. TV and radio stations contacted and alert system calling activated

How is the YMCA impacted during school closings, delays, or early dismissals?

The YMCA after school program will be closed when Greene County Public Schools are closed. In the event of an early dismissal, the YMCA will announce a pick-up time. Delayed openings do not impact the YMCA after school program.

Why can't school be closed or delayed only for students who live in the areas most affected by the weather?

Because of the location of our schools, students are transported all over the county each day. If only a portion of the school system were to close, students who live in the "closed" area may still need to get to schools that are open, and vice-versa. Buses are used numerous times every day for runs all over the county and a bus housed in a closed portion of the system may still need to be available to serve open schools. There are also many teachers and specialists who work in numerous buildings across the county.

Can I elect to keep my child home even if schools are open? Will this be an excused absence?

Parents may decide to keep their children home. Parents need to contact their children's schools to determine if the absence will be excused.

