

## School Closure for Inclement Weather Policy

### **Safety is our first priority in extreme winter weather**

The safety of all our students is the first priority when determining if schools should stay open in extreme winter weather.

The decision to close school is a serious one, and it affects many working families who would have to take a day off of work or find day care on short notice. Some families do not have these options and their children may be left home alone. Often, children are more at risk when we close school.

### **Information on school closings due to weather**

The district will post information about school closings through a variety of communication vehicles.

- Schoology and district website - hcpak12.org
- District social media pages (Facebook)
- Email, auto call and text message to families
- Media outlets including KSTP Channel 4, WCCO Channel 5, Fox Channel 9, and KARE 11
- Contact the district office at 651-209-8002 for any questions

Those responsible for activities scheduled in schools over the weekend determine whether or not an activity will be held if weather is a concern.

### **School Closure due to cold weather**

In making this decision, district officials rely on the **National Weather Service's Warning System**. If the National Weather Service issues a "**wind chill warning**" stating that exposed skin can become frostbitten in **less than 15 minutes**, then the district will likely make a decision to close. If a wind chill advisory is in effect, students who are properly dressed for the weather should be able to walk to school or wait for the bus without risking frostbite.

The decision to close school will be made by the Superintendent. Parents will be notified via email, text and automated phone message as early as possible.

### **School Closure due to snow**

HCPA will cancel classes if road conditions are such that travel becomes too hazardous for buses and cars. HCPA will consider canceling classes if travel delays become so great that staff cannot reach the buildings in order to teach students or students will be out at bus stops for an excessive amount of time.

The decision to close school will be made by the Superintendent. Parents will be notified via email, text and automated phone message as early as possible.

If school is closed due to inclement weather teachers will implement the Online School Program for students.

### **Concerns about the weather and school is in session**

In case of very extreme winter weather, parents/guardians have the final decision on whether or not to send their children to school. If school is open, students are expected to attend.

However, if parents/guardians feel their children would be in danger, they can choose to keep them home. The absence will be excused if the parent/guardian calls to report it prior to the start of school. If the school is not contacted, the student will not receive an excused absence. Students who are already in school will not be excused if they choose to go home.

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### **Early Release/Dismissal**

If a storm worsens during the school day, the decision to close school early will be made by the Superintendent. Parents will be notified via email, text and automated phone message as early as possible. In addition, an announcement will be made over the loudspeaker with the new dismissal time.

To ensure your child's safety, please have a plan in place that permits them to enter your home.

**Tornado warning or other severe weather:** Buses will not be loaded and students will remain at school.

### **Cancellation of after school activities**

HCPA may cancel after school activities if the weather and/or road conditions become too hazardous for keeping students past the regular school day. HCPA will make this decision as early as possible and will notify parents of students who are in the after school activities of the cancellation.

### **No Late Starts for Students**

Due to the complexity of student transportation Hmong College Prep Academy District 4103-07 does not offer late starts for students.