

How does the wind chill affect school being delayed or closed?

During the winter months several factors come into play that delay the start of school or cause school to be closed. One such factor is the wind chill. On particularly cold mornings we continuously monitor the National Weather Service and closely monitor the weather conditions. There are two possible scenarios that come from the National Weather Service: a **Wind Chill Advisory** and a **Wind Chill Warning**. The National Weather Service in Wilmington, OH defines the two as the following:

- **Wind Chill Advisory:** Wind chills between -10 and -24 degrees and at least a wind of 10 MPH or more.
- **Wind Chill Warning:** Wind chills -25 degrees and below with at least a wind of 10 MPH or more.

When the National Weather Service issues a **Wind Chill Warning** for Kenton County for the time the school day begins, we will make a decision about whether to delay or close schools. It is quite likely we will make this decision on the morning of the day in question as it is hard to predict what the wind chill will be the night before. If there is a **Wind Chill Advisory** for Kenton County, schools will likely be open unless there are operational problems or mechanical problems in the school buildings. Buildings are assessed each morning prior to school starting.

As a parent if you determine that the weather conditions are too dangerous for your child to be out we will respect your decision. You are free to contact your child's school to request an excused absence for the day. If your child misses school because your car will not start or other issues related to extreme cold temperatures or other weather related reasons, those reasons will be counted as excused absences. Please make sure you contact the attendance office at your child's school to report the absence.

We can assure you that our school buildings are warm, safe and an ideal place for students to be when it is extremely cold outside. We know that childcare can be an issue for many families when school is closed or delayed and try to do what we think is most helpful to our students and families. Please do make sure that your child is always dressed appropriately for the cold weather. The district urges students to wear winter hats, gloves, heavy coats and boots.

Weather conditions can sometimes be unpredictable, but we will always do our very best to make decisions which are in the best interest of our students' safety. The safety of the students and staff is always our top priority when making decisions to delay or close school.