



# BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS • DISTRICT 87

300 E. Monroe St  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-827-6031  
www.district87.org

Dr. David Mouser  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
Mrs. Sherrilyn Thomas  
*Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources*  
Dr. Diane Wolf  
*Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning*  
Mr. Michael Cornale  
*Chief Financial & Facilities Officer*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Winter weather is upon us! I want to share some information on weather-related school closings so that you may be prepared for the days and months ahead. Student safety is always our first consideration when it comes to canceling school or events. Typically, three physical factors impact the decision to close schools. Road conditions, temperature, and visibility are all considered when determining whether or not conditions are safe enough to have school.

## **Snow Remote Days**

Snow events are the most common days for school closings. Factors that are considered when deciding on whether or not to cancel school:

- Accumulation and drifting
- Icing
- Wind speeds
- Temperature
- Road conditions
- Forecast estimates for continued precipitation

When these conditions are impacted I will consult with a number of different individuals and departments: road commissioners, area superintendents, and our transportation partners. There is no single rule of thumb for accumulation amounts and much of the decision depends on the presence of blowing and/or drifting snow and the ability to keep streets clear. Every effort will be made to make a decision and inform families as quickly as possible but a decision to cancel school and/or events will typically not be made solely based on a forecast.

## **Temperature-Related Cancellations**

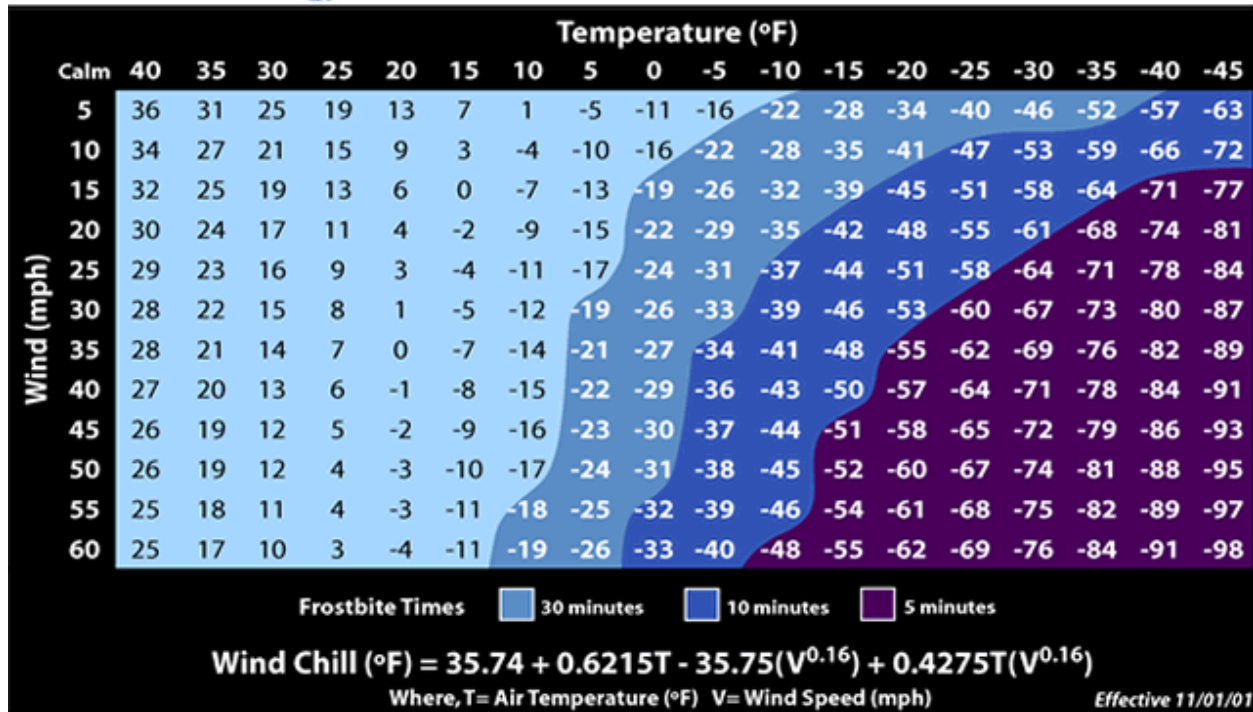
Extreme temperatures are often a part of our winters. Extreme temperatures impact people as well as buses. Factors considered when making temperature-related cancellation decisions include:

- Temperature
- Wind
- Duration and Timing of Cold Temps
- Safe Operation of Busses

Our key source of data is the NOAA Wind Chill Chart shown below.



# Wind Chill Chart



When inside the 30-minute exposure area of the graph, attendance is questionable and dependent upon road conditions. When wind chills are likely to be to the right of that area, it is unlikely that we would attend.

### Before/After School Events

If school is canceled, before school activities are canceled. All after school activities on "e-learning/remote learning days" will be decided upon by noon of that day. As a rule of thumb, if the conditions were bad enough to cancel school, we most likely will not have evening events. Cold days offer a few options based on temp changes late in the day etc.

### Parent Responsibility

Student safety is always our first priority, and we ask for your assistance by dressing students appropriately for current conditions. Please send your children to school with a coat, hat, and gloves! We have extra coats, gloves, and hats available in the district. Please just reach out to the building principal if you need help getting any of these items.

Our staff will provide online/remote learning opportunities during any weather related school closing. These days will still "count" as attendance days. We don't want our students to get bored at home ;) Please follow up with your child to make sure they understand their work and assignments. As a rule of thumb, our students in the Junior High and High School will have access to Google classroom for all materials, and our Pre-K and Elementary students will have paper packets sent home. If you need internet assistance at home, please reach out to your

building principal. More e-learning/remote day information and specific protocols will come from the individual buildings and teachers at a later time.

Finally, making a decision about having to cancel school due to weather is a difficult one. We will use our best judgment and appreciate your support as we work to ensure student learning and student safety. As a parent, you always have the right to make the final decision regarding sending your child to school based on weather conditions.

**Notifications**

We will have a call that goes out as early as possible for weather related closings. The automated system takes about 20 minutes to complete all calls depending on the number of schools closing at the same time. We will put information out on our Twitter, Facebook, our website, and all communication channels immediately for instant notification.

Sincerely,

Dr. David M. Mouser  
Superintendent  
Bloomington District 87