

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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TO: Parents, Guardians and Staff

FROM: John M. Marcus, Ph.D. 
Superintendent of Schools

RE: SNOW DAYS / REMOTE DAYS

Given the unique circumstances we are in this winter, public schools in Massachusetts have been given permission to use “snow days” as Remote Learning days. This will allow us to take advantage of our current learning modes, keep the momentum going, and keep to our original end date in June. Remote days will follow the same schedule as the day of the week it falls on. The Stoughton Public Schools will make the call to invoke a “Remote” day in the same manner (and timing) as we have done in the past for regular snow days. **We anticipate that most snow days will be “Remote” days, however, circumstances at the time (primarily power outages) may require us to call it a regular snow day.** Delayed starts for both in-person and remote learning are also still a possibility depending upon the weather.

The policy of the Stoughton Public Schools regarding **SCHOOL CANCELLATION** and/or **DELAYED OPENING** was established in the interest of the safety and well-being of our school children, staff and families. The closing of school is a decision we take very seriously and is made using all available weather sources, in consultation with Stoughton authorities and other area superintendents. We strive to give families as much notice as possible.

On stormy days when the SPS has chosen to keep schools open, **parents are encouraged to exercise their own judgment about sending their children to school.**

For notification and information about adverse weather or other unexpected conditions, the following plan will be in effect:

- A. **NO IN-PERSON LEARNING (either traditional Snow Day or Remote Learning Day)**
If conditions are severe, and it is unsafe to travel to school, or school buildings cannot be opened, in-person learning will be canceled. Either a “**No School**” or “**Remote Day**” **Announcement** will be carried by radio Stations WBZ-AM (1030) and WHDH-(850) AM. Television announcements will be made on Boston Channel 5, WCVB-TV, Channel 4, WBZ-TV, Channel 7, WHDH-TV, FOX 25-WFXT-Boston. Electronic notification will be made through our automated phone call system, social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, and on the Stoughton Public Schools website.
- B. **ONE-HOUR DELAYED OPENING**
If conditions result in a **one-hour delay**, the opening of school and all bus pick-ups will be **DELAYED ONE HOUR. School dismissal will be at the usual time.** The following plan will be in effect:

- All schools will open one hour later than the normal time.
- Middle and high school will open at 8:30 A.M.
- Bus pick-up will be one hour later than normal.
- All elementary schools will open at 9:25 A.M.
- Morning and full day Pre-school will report at 9:25 A.M.
- Lunches will be served at the regular time.

C. TWO-HOUR DELAYED OPENING

If conditions result in a **two-hour delay**, the opening of school and all bus pick-ups will be **DELAYED TWO HOURS. School dismissal will be at the usual time.** The following plan will be in effect:

- All schools will open two hours later than the normal time.
- Middle and high school will open at 9:30 A.M.
- Bus pick-up will be two hours later than normal.
- All elementary schools will open at 10:25 A.M.
- No Morning Pre-school
- Afternoon Pre-school reports a regular time
- Full Day Pre-school opens at 10:25 A.M.
- Lunches will be served at the regular time.

Delayed opening announcements will be carried over the same radio and television and social media outlets as our school closing announcement. Teachers and other staff will report either one hour or two hours later than usual. **Parents are reminded not to send or drop off their children to school early on late start days.**

D. EARLY DISMISSAL

In the event that students are dismissed early for weather or other emergency situations, notification will be made as follows:

- Our automated phone, text and email system will be activated
- All social media outlets – Twitter, SPS Facebook page and SPS website
- Early dismissal radio and television announcements will be made, if possible.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the parents' responsibility to make provisions for their children in the event schools are dismissed early.

Due to the urgency to make outgoing calls during emergency or early dismissal situations, we ask families to refrain from calling the schools for information. We will provide updates on social media and our automated phone system as additional information becomes available.

Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated.

JM/ms