

DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 13, 2015

To Depew Union Free School District Parents:

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the weather related school closing protocol for the 2015-2016 school year.

Due to the excessive amount of weather related closings over the last few years, we have adjusted our procedures. Annually, we plan for five full snow days within our instructional calendar, which when used, do not have any impact on our planned breaks and still allow us to meet the New York State required days of student attendance. Over the last few years, we have had to exhaust all of our planned snow days and in fact last year, we had to shorten our winter recess and restructure a planned Superintendent's Conference Day, in order to not exceed our allowable snow days, protect the planned mid-winter and spring breaks and still meet the required 180 days required for student attendance.

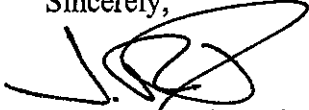
Therefore, for the 2015-2016 school year we will, once again be planning for and employing, when appropriate, a one-hour and two-hour delay schedule for those bad weather days that are forecast to not last beyond the early morning hours. The availability of a delayed day would still allow us to count the shortened school day as an actual student attendance day and at the same time protect the safety of our children traveling to school by using a delayed start. As a result, the following protocol will be utilized:

A.) At 5:00am the weather will be evaluated and on those bad weather days, when the weather would appear to be ending on or about 6:00am, the District will call for a one-hour delay. Therefore, the Middle and High School will begin their day at 8:40am and Cayuga Heights Elementary will begin their day at 10:05am with scheduled bus pick-ups, for both in-District and out-of-District placements, to also be delayed by exactly one-hour. However, if the out-of-District placements close for the day, there will not be any pick-up for those students. Breakfast will still be served for our students on a one-hour delay. Please note that the dismissals for each of the buildings will remain the same and not be affected by a delayed start.

B.) At 5:00am the weather will be evaluated and on those bad weather days, when the weather would appear to be ending on or about 7:00am, the District will call for a two-hour delay. Therefore, the Middle and High School will begin their day at 9:40am and Cayuga Heights Elementary will begin their day at 11:05am with scheduled bus pick-ups, for both in-District and out-of-District placements, to also be delayed by exactly two-hours. However, if the out-of-District placements close for the day, there will not be any pick-up for those students. Please note that the dismissals for each of the buildings will remain the same and not be affected by a delayed start.

In closing, *it is important to note that in either scenario, if the bad weather persists throughout the morning and the delayed time period, which would indicate that there is a concern for student safety, the District would then make the decision to close and call for a full snow day.* If you should have any questions about our protocol and would like to speak to me directly, please feel free to contact my office at (716) 686-5104.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Rabey Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Depew Union Free School District