

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSING

October, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The winter season will soon be upon us. Your school district understands that our decision to open or close in bad weather has a significant effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served both academically and socially, by being in school. However, our top priority is the safety of our students.

The following information is considered in all decisions relative to closing school due to inclement weather:

1. Information from state, county and city officials focused on road conditions, along with both the short and long term weather forecasts.
2. Information from our bus transportation providers including their individual recommendations focused on sending the buses out on the roads.
3. A conversation with our individual supervisor of building and grounds to ensure the parking lots can be open for parking both during the opening and closing of the school day.

Area superintendents work collaboratively to make a joint decision to open or close school in bad weather. Ultimately, considering the information above, the decision also includes the following important factors:

1. Temperature, including wind chill factor.
2. Wind velocity impacting the blowing and drifting of snow.
3. Buses running routes on a slower pace having an impact on the length of time students may be waiting at bus stops.
4. Parents/guardians driving their sons/daughters to school in poor driving conditions and high school age students with little experience driving to school.
5. Number of inches of projected snowfall.

Please note that the **Hartford Area Schools** typically will not implement late starts or early dismissals due to inclement weather. Through past experience, area schools have learned that coordinating an alternate time for school provided transportation to drop off/pick up is not possible due to a lack of available bus drivers. In addition, an early dismissal introduces the risk of sending a young student home to an empty house. The area superintendents believe that knowing students are inside, safe, warm, and learning is a better choice than unintentionally sending students home to an empty house.

However, we believe that it is important for our parents/guardians to remember that you as the parent/guardian know what is best for your child. If you believe your child would be safer at home in poor weather conditions, your young learner's absence will be marked as excused. In addition, if you are uncomfortable with the weather conditions throughout a poor weather day, we would encourage you to act upon that belief, communicate with your school's principal and make the necessary arrangements to pick up your child.

The following schools are aligned with the message **HARTFORD AREA SCHOOLS**

Erin School District
Friess Lake School District
School District of Hartford Jt. #1
Hartford Union High School
Herman School District #22
Neosho Jt. School District #3
Richfield Jt. School District #1
Rubicon Jt. #6 – Saylesville School
Peace Lutheran School - Hartford
St. Kilian's Catholic School - Hartford

To acquire up-to-date school closing information, please utilize the following resources:
TV, Radio Stations, and review the **Richfield School District website at www.richfield.k12.wi.us**.
WTMJ – TV4 – www.todaystmj4.com; WTKM – 1540 AM & 104.9 FM, WTMJ –620 AM – www.620wtmj.com & 94.5 Lake FM - www.945lakefm.com

Sincerely,

Hartford Area Superintendents

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Erin School District

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