

NPUSC Weather Decision Guidelines 2026-2027

The following guidelines are used by NPUSC regarding daily decisions to attend school at regular time, on two-hour delay, to cancel school, or to institute an e-learning day.

A goal will be set this year to make any weather decision by 5:00 am central time (school time), with the first bus leaving daily at 5:15 am cst. Communications about weather delays or cancellations to the local media, parents/guardians, and staff will likely be delivered between 5:00 am to 5:20 am cst as some lag time will occur from the weather decision to enacting NPUSC communications channels. Please understand extenuating circumstances could lead to decisions and communications happening after the stated goal times.

Once a weather delay or cancellation decision is made, communication of the decision begins via automated phone messaging, texts, social media/website postings, and media contacts and will occur typically between 5:10 am to 5:20 am central time. While there are no easy or black and white rules to follow when making decisions regarding delays and cancellations, the following guidelines are considered:

- Snow Accumulations/Predictions-Anything over 5-6 inches of snow is of concern or less if ice is involved; The timing of when snow is predicted to fall informs school start-end times and decisions on delays, cancellations, or early dismissals
- Road Conditions & Snowplow Progress Reports of both town or county roads and NPUSC parking lots
- Conditions effecting visibility (either snow fall or fog)-anything less than one half mile (0.5 mile) of visibility creates concern in the decision process. Any area Dense Fog Advisory in combination with one half mile or less of visibility is cause for concern
- Temperature- minus 10 degrees or more actual temperature or wind chill is cause for concern for delay consideration
- Feasibility of starting buses in cold or inclement weather
- Wind Speed and impact on roads (drifting), temperature, or visibility

NPUSC philosophy includes if any area of NPUSC has weather conditions warranting delay or cancellation, all NPUSC schools are treated the same and all NPUSC schools will be delayed or cancelled. Given the land area of NPUSC in two counties, a situation with one area of NPUSC having conditions warranting a delay and another area having better conditions is possible.

Visibility and road conditions are important when making decisions on snow delays or cancellations. Predicting when snow will start or stop is challenging but is another important consideration. For example, if we receive 3-4 inches of snow the night before school, often plowing services allow for travel to school on-time or after a delay. But if we receive 3-4 inches

of snow during morning drive time to NPUSC schools that is a more concerning situation that impacts visibility and road conditions. Also, conditions vary within our own school district as one area closer to Lake Michigan might receive significant snowfall while an area in the southern portion of NPUSC may have less snowfall.

Our team is committed to erring on the side of caution while also balancing the reality that severe weather conditions are likely during our winters.

If you are uncomfortable sending your student to school because of weather conditions, you can keep your student at home until such time that you believe the conditions are favorable for safe travel.

We hope this information helps clarify the guidelines NPUSC considers when making weather decisions. Please contact my office if you have any questions.

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