

Emergency Closure Procedures January 2009 Update

The recent cold spell raised the level of concern for all of us regarding travel to and from school and for sporting events. While these are complex issues and complicated by the fact that we may never all agree on what makes the best sense, there are a few guidelines we will try to maintain:

- Parents always have the right to choose when they believe it is safe for their children to travel to school or another community. Should they believe it is unsafe they can always keep their child home.
- The District will only cancel school when administrators know the wind chill has reached -60 degrees, when we are told by Bristol Bay Contractors that they feel it is unsafe to run the bus routes, or when the administrators determine that the building is unsafe for student occupancy due to a systems failure or other unanticipated event.
- We will also close school, or have a delayed start when we have been advised by the State Troopers, local law enforcement, or the State Department of Transportation that the roads are impassable or dangerous. That notification would come prior to 5am so we could notify staff and families using the local media and other methods.
- Because we have an obligation to maintain the calendar we send in to the state, the district will first attempt a delayed start on days where weather is an issue to allow additional time for people to travel to school more safely. If we later determine that it is not safe, we will announce that school will be closed.
- In terms of air transportation, the District has historically used -20 degrees as the cutoff for traveling to or from South Naknek and that seems to be true for sports travel too. We know there are temperature variances even within our own community on any given day and that is why we use the airline/pilot's decision. Again, parents should always feel free to make the decisions that they believe are in the best interest of their child and keep them home when they do not feel it is safe to travel.
- This District has also always had specific requirements for student dress while traveling to school and on sports trips. We believe parents should help us always ensure that children are dressed appropriately.
- This is an area we all take very seriously and know that it is always best to err on the side of caution.