



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 393

P.O. Box 267
Silverton, Idaho 83867

Office of Superintendent
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11-30-2022

WSD Patrons/Parents/Staff,

Living in North Idaho, it is only a matter of time before winter arrives. With today's storm it looks like it has arrived a little earlier than normal. Because the snow season can be with us for 4+ months it can become a significant part of the district's day-to-day operation. I would like to share some information with you regarding how we address the assessment of road conditions and consideration of a school closure due to that assessment.

Our bus routes begin around 6:45am. To fully assess the routes, our transportation/facility supervisors and I begin the process as early as 4am. During that time, snow accumulation and road conditions are checked at all district facilities, contact is made with city, county, and state road supervisors for road condition updates, and district staff drive specific portions of the bus routes to verify reports. After gathering all the information, a decision will be made on whether to cancel school.

Here are some specific factors we consider in making our school closure decisions:

- 100% of our routes can be conducted without traveling on the interstate highway. The maximum speed of these routes is 40mph and most are traveled at or below 25 mph.
- The county and state have prioritized the routes north of Osburn to include the Sunnyslope hill, 9-mile, and Burke canyons.
- City/state crews prioritize the bus route through and connecting Wallace, Silverton, Osburn.
- Plow and staff ability at the city, county, and state garages directly impacts road conditions and our ability to safely travel our routes.
- A decision to close schools will occur before the first bus leaves the bus garage at approximately 6:45am.
- All of our buses are outfitted with upgraded winter tires and chains.
- Once we have begun to pick up students, we will complete the scheduled day of school.

In the event that school has been cancelled the district will communicate the decision through School Messenger, district/school websites, school Facebook pages, and our local tv news stations.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Wallace School District's winter transportation procedure, please contact the district office @ 208-753-4515.

Sincerely,

Todd Howard
Superintendent of Schools
Wallace School District #393