

School Closing Information

In preparation for the upcoming winter months, please take note of the Octorara Area School District Emergency Closing and Delay Information.

For the OASD 2023-24 school year, we will utilize three types of days:

- Inclement Weather: Delay or Early Dismissal - School start will be delayed 2 or 3 hours, or students could be dismissed early to return home.
- Inclement Weather: School Closed - School Closed days will be made up beginning with February 19th as indicated on the 23-24 OASD calendar.
- Inclement Weather: Flexible Instructional Days (FID) - FID days may be used after the first three (3) planned snow days have been exhausted. FIDs will include primarily asynchronous activities that are sent home with students or made available through our District Learning Management Systems (Seesaw, Google Classroom or Schoology). FID schedules vary by grade and will be communicated by each principal.

Notification Systems

If it becomes necessary to close or delay school or enact a FID because of inclement weather, the announcement will be communicated via the Blackboard Phone/Email/Text System, as well as the District website and the following radio and TV stations:

KYW 1060, CBS TV 3

WPVI TV 6

WGAL TV 8

NBC TV 10

Lancaster News Online

Please refer to any of the above sources for weather related information. Please do not call the schools. Announcements will be made as early as possible, preferably by 6:00-6:15 a.m.

This year we will once again use both the 2-hour and 3-hour delay when appropriate to ensure the best educational experience based upon conditions and their impact on the

safety of students and staff. Alternatively, if inclement weather would impact afternoon transportation, an early dismissal may be enacted.

Decision-Making Process

Many factors impact the decision whether to delay, close school, or enact a virtual learning day (FID) when inclement weather arises. The OASD attendance area is 96-square miles, geographically one of the largest districts in the county. The weather conditions can vary across the District, where temperatures and precipitation can fluctuate greatly. Daily, our school buses and vans conduct nearly 1,600 bus stops, travel over 4,500 miles, and transport more than 2,300 students (OASD students, charter school students, and non-public school students). In addition, our grounds crew must have all properties prepared for the safe arrival of students and staff. All of these combined factors inform our decision regarding school closure, delay, or on-time opening.

The Octorara Area School District has a comprehensive and time-efficient notification plan in place for updating our staff, parents, and students. As snow, ice, or other inclement weather situations arise that may affect the school day, the administration will be in contact with the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Althouse Transportation Company and Township/Borough road departments to determine the road conditions. The administration will then make a decision based on the information presented at the time whether to delay, close, or open school on time with the main purpose of maintaining student and employee safety.

Evening School Events – Snow Provision

In the event that schools are closed during regular daytime hours due to inclement weather, evening events *may* also be canceled. The Director of Athletics will be in contact with coaches/advisors as well as any outside organization regarding the status of evening school events who in turn will be in contact with families.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we approach the winter season. Let's hope for an uneventful winter!