

School Closings and Cancellations

The superintendent, or designee, is empowered to close the schools or to dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety, health or welfare of students or staff members. It is understood that the superintendent will take such action only after consultation with appropriate authorities.

The superintendent shall consult with other area superintendents, as well as monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts. **If the NWS forecast calls for blizzard conditions and/or hazardous driving conditions school shall be cancelled by 5:00 A.M. or earlier per Board of Education policy.**

Parents, students and staff members must be informed early in each school year how they will be notified in event of emergency closings or early dismissals.

Inclement Weather or Public Health Emergency

Each year, our community experiences severe weather events that may result in the closure or delay of our schools. Student safety is the first priority in making decisions regarding school closure. However, parents, students, and employees must realize that we live in Colorado where driving in some snow and bad weather conditions is reasonable and expected, and school cannot be called off whenever there is the slightest amount of snow and/or ice.

When severe weather forecasts are definitive, the district will close or delay school with as much advance notice as possible. When forecasts are less definitive, we will monitor conditions closely, including traveling parts of the district and consult with area officials prior to making a decision to close or delay schools. In these instances, we will make every effort to communicate with you no later than 5:00 A.M.

In the event we announce a delayed start due to inclement weather, we will start school 2-hours later than regularly scheduled start times. We will announce if it is a 2-hour delay. Bus schedules will also run 2-hours later, based on that announcement.

In some cases of severe weather, schools may be closed early or after school programs, athletics and other activities may be cancelled.

Delayed starts due to inclement weather and school closure notifications are made via School Messenger (automatic phone calls), the district website, social media and media

including television and radio stations. Each school/department will have a calling tree to inform staff.

Parents, students and employees should always assume that there will be school as scheduled, unless they see an announcement on the website, on TV, hear an announcement on radio, or receive a phone call, text or email as part of the official messenger system.

When it becomes necessary to close school due to weather conditions, public health emergency, power outages and/or mechanical conditions, the district will post the information on our website (www.dt26j.com) and broadcast information over the following television and radio stations:

Channel 2 KWGN	Channel 9 KUSA
Channel 4 KCNC	Channel 31 KDVR
Channel 7 KMGH	KOA 85 AM Radio

The listing will be Deer Trail 26J.

All staff members, except for teachers and personnel who work only on teacher work days or on student days, unless otherwise notified must be required to report to work as soon as possible on emergency days.

NOTE: The following language, borrowed from Cañon City Schools Fremont RE-1 policy EBCE, School Closings, Delays, Cancellations, and E-Learning Days, is optional and may be used or revised by the district to address emergency closures due to an outbreak of COVID-19 or other emergencies.

In the event school is physically closed due to a public health emergency, all staff with direct student contact or associated with student attendance will not physically report to work unless notified otherwise. Instead, the district will utilize a form of remote instruction. Remote instruction allows students to access lessons provided by, and supported by, their regular teachers and allows students to continue their sequence of learning despite their inability to access facilities.

To ensure all students have the ability to access their lessons via remote instruction, the district will maintain a supply of internet hotspots, providing hardware and/or software, providing take-home materials/assignments for available use for remote instruction.

During days of remote instruction, teachers will take attendance and monitor student participation through Google platform and/or Infinite Campus. For situations that are out of the control of the student, days of remote instruction will be treated with the same exceptions as an excused absence in regard to work assigned.

The superintendent or their designee will develop administrative regulations or a plan for implementing this policy.

Adopted: 2005

Revised: November 12, 2018

Revised: August 2020

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-1-112 (*school year and national holidays*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1) (n) (*Board's duty to determine number of instructional/contact hours/days*)
C.R.S. 22-33-101 *et seq.* (*school attendance law*)
1 CCR 301-39, Rules 2254-R-2.06 (*Board may reduce teacher-pupil instructional/contact time; closings deemed by Board necessary for health, safety or welfare of pupils*)

CROSS REF.: IC/ICA, School Year/School Calendar/Instruction Time
JLIB, Student Dismissal Precautions