December 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

The calendar, along with the latest weather conditions, reminds us that winter is here. As you know, this means the potential for heavy snow, blizzard conditions, along with severe cold. In some instances the weather may force us to close school, have delayed starts, or dismiss students early.

We want you to be aware that our first and foremost concern is the safety of your student. To help you better understand our decision making process, I have attached an overview of the guidelines we follow. We will make every effort to notify you about whether or not schools will be closed as soon as possible in the morning. To learn of closings we encourage you to listen or watch local media. In addition, we will post information on the KUSD Website (www.kusd.edu), Channel 20, and our Twitter feed at twitter.com/kusd.

If you have any questions, please contact the school where your student attends.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Hancock
Superintendent of Schools
Information for parents about School Closings due to Inclement Weather.

The Kenosha Unified School District assesses the weather based on data from the National Weather Service and the monitoring of local conditions. We then make decisions about school operations with safety of our students in mind.

How does Kenosha Unified School District decide to close schools due to weather? Student safety is the primary concern of the Superintendent when making the decision to close schools due to weather conditions. Several factors are taken into consideration, including:

- Is there a sustained wind chill of minus 34°F or lower? (automatic closure).
- Will the wind chill stay that low for an extended period of time?
- Will the temperature be below zero for an extended period of time?
- Is there blowing and drifting snow with winds of 20 miles per hour?
- Is there or will there be a heavy accumulation of snow especially during typical travel times to/from school?
- Are streets and sidewalks clear?
- Are buses unable to run due to extreme cold or unplowed streets?
- Are driving conditions hazardous?
- Are there power or phone outages?

In the event our schools are closed or the arrival/dismissal time is changed due to severe weather, an announcement will be made on local TV, local radio stations, and area media sites. It will also be noted on KUSD’s Website, www.kusd.edu; KUSD Channel 20; Twitter.com/kusd.

If schools will be closed for the day, the district will make every effort to release the information to area media by 5:30 a.m. If school is closed for the day, all after school-school activities in the district, including sports and evening events, will be canceled. Also, when our schools are closed, no transportation will be provided to private and parochial schools within the District boundaries.

If the opening of school is delayed or students will be dismissed early, an announcement will be made on television, radio, and our Web and Twitter sites.

Instruct your child what to do, who to contact, and/or where to go if school is dismissed early. School personnel will not leave their buildings until all students are transported home and walkers are dismissed.

THREE PROCEDURES TO LOOK / LISTEN FOR

Unless notified otherwise, Procedure 1 is in effect.

Procedure 1: “All schools in the Kenosha Unified School District will be open today. Students and personnel will be expected to attend as normally scheduled.

Procedure 2: “All schools in the Kenosha Unified School District will be open today, but no school bus transportation will be furnished to or from school. School personnel are expected to report as normally scheduled. Classes will be held for students. Parent discretion in sending children to school is advised.

Procedure 3: “All schools in the Kenosha Unified School District will be open one hour later this morning and buses that transport students will be running approximately one hour late. Personnel are expected to report as normally scheduled. Dismissal will be at the regular time.”

Procedure 4: “All schools in the Kenosha Unified School District will be closed and no students are expected to report. The Senior Citizens Center will be closed. Secretaries should not report to work, with the exception of secretaries assigned to the Educational Support Center and the Department of Recreation, Health and Physical Education who may report to work. The only persons required to report to work today are: full time custodial employees, full time food service workers, maintenance personnel, carpenters and painters, warehouse personnel, and administrative, supervisory and technical personnel.”

Guidelines for Keeping Students Indoors and Allowing Early Entrance to Buildings

1. General Guidelines:
   - Ten degrees above zero or lower - indoor recess, indoor noon recess, and early entrance to door areas/hallways.
   - Wind chill factor of zero or lower - indoor recess, indoor noon recess, and early entrance to door areas/hallways.
   - Rain, drizzle, or blizzard conditions - indoor recess, indoor noon recess, and early entrance to door areas/hallways.

2. Administrator’s Responsibilities:
   - The principal is responsible for the timely implementation of the guidelines.
   - Reasonable supervision of students under all circumstances.
   - Each year parents are to be informed of the District’s expectations regarding indoor periods due to weather conditions. Student handbooks should contain a statement in this regard.