

# Minnesota Transitions Charter School Weather Policy

Canceling school is a complicated decision that affects students, staff and families. Our schools provide students with a safe and stable place to learn. Some students rely on the school district for breakfast and lunch. Canceling school may cause some families hardships related to finding childcare. Canceling school is an exception and we do everything possible to keep schools open.

The primary criteria we consider when making a decision include:

- The safety and well-being of students and staff
- Severity of the weather (extreme cold, flooding, etc.)
- Timing of weather (overnight, weekend, etc.)
- The ability for buses and cars to travel safely

We continually monitor the forecast from the National Weather Service, and the superintendent is in contact with administrators in order to make the best decision for students and staff.

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## Notifying Families

In the event that school is canceled due to severe weather, MTS makes every attempt to notify families as soon as possible.

Full-day school closure decisions will be made no later than 6:00am the day of if conditions are unsafe for students and staff.

After-school and evening cancellation decisions affecting after-school activities, evening activities and field trips will be made by noon the day of.

We notify families and staff via:

- The MTS website and individual school websites
- Mass media, including TV and radio
- Social media (Facebook and Twitter)

Parents can help by making sure their contact information, as well as emergency contact information, is regularly updated with their child's school.

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## **Making the Decision**

The superintendent makes a decision after consulting with the administrative team and other stakeholders as needed. The superintendent may consult with the superintendents from other metro school districts and the Minnesota Department of Education for additional perspective. The Superintendent will initiate the “calling tree” should the decision be made to cancel classes for the day.

Decisions on staff reporting to work will take in to account safety and practicality of travel. Staff who are able to come to work safely should plan to report. Please contact your supervisor if you have other situations that prevent you from coming in.

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## **Cancellations**

### **Cold Day**

MTS may cancel classes if the wind chill forecast for 6:30 a.m. is  $-35^{\circ}$  or colder, with winds of at least 5 to 10 miles per hour. Closure will be made on a daily basis so regardless of the temperature please listen to local media outlets for confirmation of closures.

### **Snow Day**

MTS may cancel classes if road conditions are such that travel becomes too hazardous for buses and cars. MTS will consider canceling classes if travel delays become so great that staff cannot reach the buildings in order to teach students or students will be out at bus stops for an excessive amount of time.

This may happen if it snows 6 inches or more in 12 hours, or 8 inches or more in 24 hours. Every winter storm is different, so it is possible that classes will still be held even if snowfall reaches these limits.

We may also close school if conditions approach blizzard criteria, even if snowfall amounts are lower.



