

MUSCATINE



**SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY**

**School Closing
Information**

Will there be school today?

It is the policy of the district to be open for classes every scheduled day for the scheduled number of hours. Since the first consideration of the district is to insure the safety of students and staff, there may be times when decisions must be made to close schools for a whole day or part of a day. These policies, administrative procedures and suggestions will assist parents in coping with those conditions.

The superintendent has the authority to close schools, delay starting times, dismiss early, or keep school open beyond the regular school day in the case of extreme weather or emergency conditions.

The final decision in determining "unsafe" conditions necessitating an emergency school closing will be made by the superintendent or designee, using the best judgment that is possible with the information available.

All decisions regarding closings and dismissals will be announced to local and regional media for broadcast to district patrons. If no announcement is made, school will be in session.

When school is delayed in starting, dismissed early, or closed,(canceled) because of weather anywhere in the district, all buildings will be so affected.

Winter Weather Procedures

School may be canceled for the full day if a severe storm or inclement weather such as fog or ice is in progress or there is a subsequent problem in clearing or traveling on streets and roads. An announcement will be broadcast as early as possible.

If a storm develops after the school day has started, regular

school hours will be maintained including regular dismissal time. However, one or more of the following options may apply:

- Students not already at school may be asked to stay home.
- Parents may pick up students at the school at any time.
- Extra-curricular activities may be canceled.

In all cases, the school district's decision and any subsequent information will be immediately announced to radio and television stations.

Special Provisions

Only in extreme situations will any schools be dismissed a head of regular dismissal times. Two factors dictate such a policy. First, a large number of children ride school buses, and it is not always possible to run buses earlier than scheduled. Second, in many homes both parents work, and no one would be home to receive and to account for children dismissed early.

When weather is severe it may be necessary to shorten some bus routes due to adverse road conditions. If any stops are eliminated, efforts will be made to notify parents and students of such change. Hard surface routes may be used when road conditions create unsafe driving on county roads.

If a bus is stalled, students will stay on the bus until another bus arrives to take them to school or home.

Fog

Extremely foggy conditions may cause school to be delayed one or two hours. Announcements of delayed starting times will be broadcast.

Extreme Heat

Students will be dismissed early if heat becomes a major negative factor in the educational process and the potential health and safety of the students and staff. School will be dismissed early as follows:

- If daytime temperatures are forecast to be 98 degrees, the media will be contacted of a weather alert. A weather alert means that the school district anticipates releasing students early due to extreme heat.
- If the temperature has risen to 94 degrees by 11:00 a.m., students will be dismissed two hours early.
- Temperature and humidity will be considerations and will be determined by the National Weather Service in Moline.
- If school is dismissed early, extra-curricular activities will be held only with approval of the building principal.
- It is anticipated that the time missed by students due to early dismissals will not be made up. If the time missed becomes lengthy, considerations for make-up time will be made.
- The superintendent has the discretion to close only non air-conditioned schools on days of extreme heat.

Disaster Drills and Planning

Schools will conduct fire drills, tornado drills and emergency evacuations. In an actual emergency when time allows, children will be sent home or to safety areas previously designated by the parent/guardian. An accurate accounting of each pupil released will be maintained at the school. In the event there is not sufficient time to send children home, students will remain at school to ensure safety.

Points For Parents

Do not call the school for information. Please listen to the news broadcasts. Listen carefully -- remember Louisa-Muscatine is not the Muscatine Schools. If it is necessary to make an emergency call to the school, please keep it brief.

When severe weather is forecast or possible, please dress your child accordingly.

If severe weather conditions exist or are forecast, parents should use their own discretion in sending students to school.

Broadcast Information

In the event there is a need to close, delay, or dismiss the Muscatine School District early, the following news media will be notified....

TV Channels:

WHBF (CBS) Channel 4
KWQC (NBC) Channel 6
WQAD (ABC) Channel 8
KLJB (FOX) Channel 18

Radio Channels:

KWPC- AM 860
WOC-AM 1420
WLLR-FM 103.7
KCQQ-FM 106.5
KUUL-FM 101.3
KMXG-FM 96.1
KZIA-FM 102.9
KGYM-AM 1600

Des Moines Register Web Site - desmoinesregister.com

Muscatine Journal Web Site - www.muscatinejournal.com/

Quad City Times Web Site - www.quadcitytimes.com/

Muscatine Schools Web Site -

www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/alerts.htm

Iowa School Alerts

The Muscatine School District has signed up to take part in a new notification system offered by the State of Iowa called “Iowa School Alerts.” This program gives parents, the media and others the opportunity to sign up to receive e-mail notifications directly when we have cancelled classes, or will be dismissing early or starting late due to weather or other factors. This service, which was developed by IT staff at the Department of Administrative Services, is **free of charge** to you and the school. The State funded the development of this program through the IOWAccess initiative, which seeks to bring more e-government services to the people of Iowa. And because the system is funded and operated by the state, you can be assured that your e-mail addresses will not be sold to anyone and you will not receive advertisements or spam due to enrolling in the program.

Here’s how you can take advantage of this free service & sign up for e-mail alerts:

1. Click on “Sign Up!” in the Main Menu at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>. This will take you to the “Enterprise A&A” screen for the State of Iowa. If you already have an account with the State (say, for another online application), there’s no need to create another one.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your name and e-mail address, and create secret questions and your password. This step involves obtaining a code from an e-mail sent to you to confirm your registration.

3. Once you have created and confirmed your account registration, you will be taken back to the School Alerts site where you can click on “My Subscriptions” to add the school districts/buildings you would like to receive notices for. Once you’ve selected a school, you are asked to enter the e-mail addresses or cell phone addresses where you would like notifications sent. You can add as many e-mail addresses as you’d like! (Please note that some wireless services providers may charge you for receiving e-mails or text messages. You are responsible for those charges.)

We will still make sure that local media outlets are notified when there’s a change in our classes so notices will still be made on the television and radio, but we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to be directly notified as well!

If you have any questions about signing up for Iowa School Alerts, please contact the school’s administration office or e-mail schoolalertsinfo@iowa.gov.
