

# D38 Weather Related Decisions

## Forecasts

Weather reports from the National Weather Service (NWS) are checked daily. During inclement weather or forecasted inclement weather, reports are monitored continuously. D38 monitors most storms 12-24 hours in advance.

## Road conditions

The NWS permits school districts to speak directly with a forecaster in addition to having access to very detailed weather information online. If inclement weather is expected, D38 has a team of personnel who drive the District starting around 2:00 a.m. until about 4:30 a.m. D38 covers more than 140 square miles. Conditions may vary greatly throughout D38. Each area of the District has unique features and contains several micro weather zones. Some storms affect the northwest areas, and others affect the areas east of SH83. Because of this uniqueness, D38 staff drives various roads throughout the District checking snow amounts, iciness, drifting, and visibility.

## Temperature

The temperature and wind chill also affect D38's decisions around delays and closures. D38 has delayed the start of school due to extreme wind chills. If the NWS has issued a wind chill advisory, D38 will consider delaying or closing school. Usually, this is for sustained periods when the wind chill is -17 degrees or colder.

## Consultations

Additionally, D38 contacts other school districts (Academy D20, Falcon D49, and Colorado Springs D11), the US Air Force Academy, law enforcement for closed roads or accidents, State/County Department of Transportation for snow removal status, and the NWS for the most current forecast.

## Operations

At the same time D38 staff is checking the road conditions, D38's maintenance department is clearing snow at schools and ensuring that buildings are operational (heat, electrical, water, snow cleared).

## Decision

Around 4:30 a.m., a recommendation is made to the superintendent to either stay on a regular schedule, schedule a two-hour delayed start, or close. If the District is closed, all activities are canceled. If the roads need more plowing, sanding, clearing, or if the forecast is expected to improve, a two-hour delayed start may be scheduled.

## Communication

A two-hour delay or closure is communicated via texts/emails to families. This information is also posted on the district website, mobile app, social media, and local news stations by 5:30 a.m. As weather conditions are volatile and can change from hour to hour, a delayed start may turn into a closure. Information regarding a change in status will be communicated before 7:30 a.m.

**Bus Routes**

The transportation department makes every effort to keep the buses on time. Some buses may run late if roads are slick or snow packed. Additionally, mechanical problems may occur during very cold conditions. You may call (719) 488-4711 for bus updates.

**Family Considerations**

- Please remind your student to dress appropriately for the weather conditions.
- The Inclement Weather Procedures document (posted on our website) provides more information on delay and closing procedures.
- D38 will not penalize students if parents/guardians keep them home on inclement weather days. Parents/guardians need to report children's absences to their schools.

Thank you for trusting us with the safety of your children. Lewis-Palmer School District 38 takes this responsibility seriously.