

# Grant Community High School Weather Related School Changes

## **Safety First**

Technology has allowed us to extend learning beyond the walls of the classrooms and has positively impacted options available to us on severe weather days. Deciding to cancel in-person learning is a complicated decision that affects students, families, and school staff. Providing students with a safe place to learn is a top priority for Grant Community High School District 124 and is the primary consideration in making a decision whether to hold in-person classes or switch to e-learning, but there are many.

The primary criteria we consider when making a decision to cancel in-person learning include:

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

We continually monitor the forecast from the National Weather Service, and the superintendent confers with community officials and school personnel in order to make the best decision for students, staff and families. Although we strive each and every time to make the best decision regarding in-person or remote learning, oftentimes no perfect decision exists. **If you do not feel it is safe for your student to attend school, you are encouraged to use your own judgment in determining if your child should attend or remain home.**

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## **Notifying Families**

In the event that in-person learning is canceled and we switch to e-learning, due to severe weather, we will make every attempt to notify families as soon as possible. As weather conditions may be unpredictable, it is often necessary to wait until the day we are anticipating severe weather to make a decision. If that is the case, a decision will be made by 5:30 A.M. the day of. Additionally, when weather conditions become more hazardous than expected overnight, a morning decision may be necessary. When possible and practicable, the decision will be made the evening before and communication will be sent by 8:00 P.M.

If school is in session and severe weather is expected in the evening, communication will be made by 2:00 P.M. that day regarding cancellations of after-school and evening activities.

We notify families via:

- Skylert text messaging, email, and automated phone calls
- The school website: [www.grantbulldogs.org](http://www.grantbulldogs.org)
- Twitter: @GrantBulldogs
- Facebook: @grantcommunityhighschool124
- Emergency closing center: [emergencyclosingcenter.com](http://emergencyclosingcenter.com)

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

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## **Making the Decision**

The superintendent will make a decision regarding in-person vs. remote learning after careful monitoring of the forecast from the National Weather Service and after consulting with community officials and school personnel as needed. The superintendent does consult with the superintendents from other Lake County school districts. The superintendent makes the final decision and communicates it to families and staff.

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## **Scenarios**

**School is not canceled** – Families should assume that classes are in session unless otherwise notified.

**In-person learning is cancelled / switch to [Emergency Day E-Learning](#)** – Students will follow a modified bell schedule with live/synchronous instruction occurring in each class period.

**After-school activities when e-learning due to extreme cold** – Safety conditions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and every effort will be made to have notifications out by 10:00 A.M. on an e-learning day due to extreme cold. Priority will be given to varsity practices and competitions, if necessary.

**After-school activities when e-learning due to snow** – Safety conditions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and every effort will be made to have notifications out by 10:00 A.M. on an e-learning day due to snow. Priority will be given to varsity practices and competitions, if necessary. However, the following apply due to snow closures:

- All after-school student activities and events will be canceled unless specifically stated.
- Athletic events will be canceled unless specifically stated.
- Outside events that have obtained permission to operate at Grant will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**After-school activities when conditions become severe during the school day** – When conditions become severe during the day, we may cancel after-school activities. Every effort will be made to have notifications out by 2:00 P.M. Priority will be given to varsity practices and competitions, if necessary.

**Late start or early dismissal** – These options may be used during emergencies because they provide options to avoid weather events. We will notify families as early as possible.

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## **E-learning**

### **Cold Day**

An [Emergency Day E-Learning Day](#) is likely to be considered when the National Weather Service issues a *Wind Chill Warning* that impacts the school day, most especially during student report and dismissal times.

An Emergency Day E-Learning Day may be considered when the National Weather Service issues a *Wind Chill Watch*, but school is likely to be held in person unless extenuating circumstances present.

Information Concerning Severe Cold from National Weather Service:

**Wind Chill Warning: Take Action!** - NWS issues a wind chill warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with a wind chill warning, avoid going outside during the coldest parts of the day. If you do go outside, dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and make sure at least one other person knows your whereabouts. Update them when you arrive safely at your destination.

**Wind Chill Watch: Be Prepared** - NWS issues a wind chill watch when dangerously cold wind chill values are possible. As with a warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Make sure your car has at least a half a tank of gas, and update your winter survival kit.

**Wind Chill Advisory: Be Aware** - NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values but not extremely cold values are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors.

For additional information on responding to severe cold temperatures, please visit the [National Weather Service website](#).