

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Inclement Weather FAQ

To respond to anticipated questions regarding inclement weather decisions, this list of Frequently Asked Questions will provide more information on how Fargo Public Schools will respond to inclement weather for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.

### ***What is the driving force behind inclement weather decisions?***

Fargo Public Schools makes every effort to keep schools open each day. We know closing school on a day it is scheduled to be open has a tremendous impact on our families and our community. Our first choice will always be to remain open, but at times the weather conditions within the city merit a school closing or a late start.

### ***How and when are inclement weather decisions decided?***

Fargo Public Schools maintains close communication with climatologists, meteorologists, local government, and neighboring school districts to make decisions regarding inclement weather and other emergency situations that are in the best interest of the safety of our students, staff and parents. The decision to hold classes is based on the general weather conditions that exist for the majority of Fargo students. Each weather event is looked at individually with multiple sources of information consulted before making the final decision on whether to hold school due to inclement weather. The decision to keep schools open or to close them results from weighing a variety of factors including excessive snow, temperature or wind chill numbers, wind speeds, road conditions, and the safety of bussing students.

Climatologists have often advised that weather forecasts can change throughout the day and the most accurate forecast is often available closest to the time the inclement weather is predicted. Therefore, we always strive to balance timely communication to patrons of FPS with making decisions based on the most accurate forecast available at the time of the decision. We are always conscious of ensuring that we provide enough time for parents to arrange for supervision of their children.

### ***Why do we cancel school first before considering distance learning?***

Per Fargo Board of Education Policy EL-14, Fargo Public Schools must first utilize the built-in make-up days prior to considering distance learning. That policy is posted [online at this link](#). And, as per policy, the Superintendent may waive student contact days up to the state minimum hour requirements due to emergency closures. Last week's weather event caused FPS to close twice



## Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

this year already. Therefore, we will be using the two built-in days in our school calendar of April 10 and May 26, 2023 to hold classes.

### ***What is the plan for the rest of this year? It's still early in the winter season!***

Per the discretion allowed to the Superintendent in Board of Education Policy EL-14, the next two times inclement weather requires a full school closure will not be made-up nor will those be distance learning. Since we are above the state requirements for minimum instructional time, the next two full-day closures will be waived. The only exception to this plan will be if a series of late starts or early dismissals are utilized prior to the next two school closures. If that occurs, we will need to determine if we are still above the minimum state requirement to allow a closure and waive the days.

After the next two full closures that are not made up, any additional full days impacted by inclement weather will become remote learning days. Schools will now begin preparing for students to start bringing home their school-issued device so they can be used for a possible remote learning day. In addition to teaching our students how to bring their device to and from school and how to take care of their device at home, we will also make sure that students have access to their coursework and teacher.

If your home does not have Internet access that would be available for your child during a remote learning day, please contact your student's school office. We can work with you to explore options for home internet access.

In the event remote learning is needed, a schedule will be provided to families for the remote learning day. Remote learning would include synchronous and asynchronous learning during the day.

Our staff members are now preparing for a possible shift to virtual learning due to inclement weather. More information will be provided as plans are made and carried out.



## Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

***That's a lot of information. Can you summarize what you just said through some quick questions?***

You Betcha!

***Next two times FPS need to close for the day, those will be traditional snow days that are not made up?***

Correct.

***After that, every time FPS needs to close for the day, those will be remote learning days?***

Correct.

***This plan could completely change if the district needs to use late starts or early dismissals before full day closures?***

Correct. If we need to call late starts or early dismissals, that can impact our ability to waive based on the state minimum of instructional hours required.

***Where can we easily access information about inclement weather procedures in Fargo Public Schools?***

For information regarding school closures, visit the school cancellation process [webpage on the FPS website](#).

