

Inclement Weather Policy

The following pertains to WEATHER situations only. (Not school calendars.) If you have questions, please call the office.

Inclement weather may include fog, snow, freezing rain, icy roads, cold and wind chills. We watch these both for road conditions and for school closings, delays, or early dismissals.

Teachers may make special arrangements with you. If that occurs, please share them with the office ASAP.

At all times, you need to know:

- The counties you drive in
- Each student's bill code (i.e. DEL, BEX, etc.) This is on your schedule (2nd to last column.)
- The schools and districts your students attend
- Students that have individual situations such as attending two schools, work programs, shortened days, etc.

Follow the news for snow emergencies by county, and for the school and district each student attends. **It's your responsibility to monitor the schools involved on your routes before you leave home.**

- Explore local resources like NBC4 where you can even sign up for a text alerts on your phone for specific districts.
- Closures are also linked to our home page: www.tristarcolumnbus.com

IMPORTANT: As a reminder, **please have your phone on and please answer if the office calls.** We must be able to communicate with you while you are on the road, especially during inclement weather.

For snow emergency levels:

- If a Level 1 snow emergency exists: Check the news for closings, delays, or early dismissals. Follow protocols below.
- If a Level 2 snow emergency exists: The schools in that county should be closed.
- If a Level 3 for snow emergency exists: All transportation in that county is cancelled. No car should be on the road.

If school or district is closed:

First, check your schedule of all of your students' BILL CODES ("BILL" - 2nd to last column):

- If there is NO asterisk (*), follow the closings per the pick-up and drop-off locations on your schedule.
- If there is an asterisk (i.e. DEL*), **and the bill code district is closed, we will not transport the student, regardless if the school they're attending is open.**

If school or district has a delay:

First, check your schedule for your students' BILL CODES ("BILL" - 2nd to last column):

- If there is NO asterisk (*), follow the closings per the pick-up and drop-off locations on your schedule.
- If there is an asterisk (i.e. DEL*), and **the bill code district is on a delay, we will recognize that delay regardless if the school the student is attending is not** – this may cause them to be “late” to their attending school.
 - If both the bill code district and attending schools are on a delay but different lengths (i.e. 1 hour vs. 2 hours), always follow the longer delay.

These delays might cause you to have a conflict with other pick up or drop-offs. **Call the office as soon as you identify you have a conflict. Do not assume the office realizes there is a time conflict.**

AM/PM Kindergarten and Preschool

- AM classes: Typically, if the school is on a 1-hour delay, so will AM kindergarten and preschool. If there is a 2-hour delay, typically, AM kindergarten and preschool classes are closed.
- PM classes: Typically, PM kindergarten and preschool are not affected by delays. However, if by late morning, schools are anticipating incoming weather, they may cancel PM kindergarten and preschool.

If school or district has early dismissal:

- As the office is made aware of early releases, we will send a mass text to all drivers alerting them of the change. To confirm that you saw the text message, **promptly respond with a “1.”** This helps us cut down on calls we need to make to drivers.
- Call the parents for your students with early release. The school should also be alerting them, but just in case, double check so you aren't waiting for parents to come home.
- **Look at your schedule. If you have conflicts with the early release time and other pick up/drop offs, please call the office ASAP to work through the conflict. Do not assume the office realizes there is a time conflict.**

Charter schools, private schools, and special programs:

Most independent schools will be listed by their own names on the news for weather delays. The following list includes programs that may NOT be listed by name:

School	Rule
ACT Program	Follows Columbus State
AG Bell	Follows Columbus
Auditory Oral Children's Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follows Dublin• If Dublin or bill code district are on 2 hr delay, Auditor will be closed.
Bloom Carroll	Follows Amanda Clear Creek
Briar Patch	Follows Groveport
Bridgeway	Follows student's bill code district.
Brookwood	Follows Columbus
Crittenden Community School	Follows Columbus
Cross Creek	Follows Columbus

Delaware Career Center	Follows student's bill code district.
Eagle Wings	Follows student's bill code district.
Eastland Career Center Extension Workers (i.e. downtown hotels)	Will not be affected by any time delay. Will be listed as its own closing on news.
ESC of Franklin County	Follows Columbus, but you must follow student's bill code district.
Fairfield Academy	Follows Pickerington (county is Fairfield)
Field of Dreams	Follows Gahanna
Frontier Academy	Follows Reynoldsburg
Graham School	Generally, follows Columbus, but will be listed as its own closing on news.
Hamilton House	Follows Gahanna
Haugland	Follows student's bill code district.
Highlands	Follows Worthington
Lancaster Fairfield Community School	Follows Pickerington and/or Lancaster (county is Fairfield)
Learning Spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canal Winchester: Follows Canal Winchester • Worthington: Follows Worthington <p>But, follow student's bill code district.</p>
Marburn Academy	Follows student's bill code district.
Oakstone	Follows student's bill code district.
OSD & OSSB	Follows student's bill code district.
Phoenix Central	Follows student's bill code district.
Pickaway County Alternative School	Follows student's bill code district.
Pioneer Center	Follows Huntington
REACH	Follows student's bill code district.
Rockbridge	Follows Worthington, but you must follow each student's bill code district
Rosemont	Follows Columbus
Silver Lining	Follows Hilliard
St. Vincent	If Columbus is closed, St. Vincent will have a half day.
Step By Step	Rarely closes. Call school: 436-7837 x2
Summit Academy	Follows Columbus
The Tomorrow Center	Follows Mt. Gilead
Ventures	Follows Buckeye Valley (county is Delaware)
Virtual Community School	Follows Reynoldsburg
West Central School	Follows student's bill code district.
Westerville Shuttle Buses	Follow Westerville schools. If Westerville schools are closed, their shuttles do not run. We may have to provide extra transportation which will be noted on your schedule.