

FCPS adjusts bad-weather policy

The school board voted Feb. 25 to make the necessary policy changes to allow more flexibility when bad weather strikes.

If conditions warrant, the school district now will be able to go on either a one-hour or two-hour delay.

Under this schedule, all schools would simply start either one or two hours later than normal. Buses would run their regular routes, just one or two hours later. There would be no changes to the end of the school day. Dismissal times would be on the normal schedule, and afternoon and evening activities would continue as planned unless weather conditions worsened.

Officials still will be able to cancel school or dismiss early if weather forecasts suggest either of those is the best option. And there might be times that officials initially call for a delay and wind up cancelling school because the weather has shifted or temperatures have not warmed up enough to make the streets safe. However, they will try to make those decisions early enough in the day so families can make arrangements.

Snow days

Your children's safety is our top priority, so on snowy or icy days, a team of district employees drives the streets beginning at 2:30 a.m. to assess road conditions.

School leaders – in consultation with meteorologists, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Streets and Roads Division, and other officials – consider street safety, outdoor temperatures and the weather forecasts in order to make a decision as early as possible about cancelling or delaying school.

If school is cancelled, all afternoon and evening activities are cancelled as well. However, should conditions improve to a point where activities could be held safely, that decision will be made and announced by early afternoon. The school calendar will be changed to make up lost instructional days.

If school is delayed, afternoon and evening activities will continue as planned unless weather conditions worsen. There will be no Early Start sessions. Decisions about making up the missed time will be made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with current state guidelines.

If school is dismissed early, all afternoon and evening activities are cancelled as well. Students in the morning Early Start session, which normally dismisses at 10:30 a.m., can either be picked up at school by their families or they will be brought home on the bus along with the other students from their elementary schools in accordance with the early dismissal schedule. Decisions about making up the time will be made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with current state guidelines.

School closings or delays are broadcast on Channel 13, local television and radio stations and the district Web site at www.fcps.net.

If the weather turns dangerous during the school day, decisions about closing school early are made with careful deliberation, and announcements are distributed through the local media as well as on Channel 13 and the district Web site as quickly as possible. Every effort is made to contact families of elementary school students directly. Students will be supervised until the last child is picked up.