

September 22, 2009

To: Parents, Staff and Students of Manitou Springs School District #14

From: Tim Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

RE: Weather Decisions Based on Student Safety

The time of year when adverse weather can cause safety concerns regarding the transportation of students is approaching. The district attempts to make decisions on weather in the best interest of student safety.

Because our district boundaries and elevations vary so widely, multiple weather conditions can exist at the same time. Also, meteorological forecasts are sometimes inaccurate. As a result, school personnel may misjudge weather situations. Due to this, parents are encouraged to keep their children at home if they consider weather and road conditions dangerous. In such cases, students will be excused and will be allowed to make up any missed work if parents report the absence to their child's school.

The Inclement Weather Procedures on page 2 will be followed by the district; please review these procedures with your children, day care providers, and others with whom you entrust your children.

We will report our status through the Flash Alert network, which utilizes local radio and TV stations (listed below) to broadcast delayed start and/or school closure information.

You can also view changes in start time or school closure at www.flashalert.net (select Colorado Springs; El Paso Co. Schools; Manitou Springs SD 14), or, on the district web site at www.mssd14.org.

We will continue to use our phone tree notification plan for district staff.

Ch. 5/30	KOAA TV	KCME FM	88.7	KGFT FM	100.7
Ch. 11	KKTV	KTLF FM	90.5	KBIQ FM	
	102.7				
Ch. 13	KRDO TV	KRCC FM	91.5	KYZX FM	
	103.9				
Ch. 21	KXRM TV	KKPK FM	92.9	KRDO FM	105.5
		KILO FM	94.3	KKLI FM	106.3
KVOR	AM 740	KATC FM	95.1	KTPL FM	88.1, 88.3
KCBR	AM 1040	KIBT FM	96.1		
KRDO	AM 1240	KCCY FM	96.9		
KKML	AM 1300	KKFM FM	98.1		www.flashalert.net
KZNT	AM 1460	KKMG FM	98.9		
KCMN	AM 1530	KVUU FM	99.9		www.mssd14.org

SCHOOL CLOSING, DELAYED STARTS AND EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

DISTRICT CLOSING:

If the decision is made to cancel school, local TV and radio stations will be asked to announce that the district is closed.

- Local TV and radio stations will be informed by 6:00 a.m. of the closing.
- This decision will also be posted at www.mssd14.org and www.flashalert.net

If school is cancelled for the day, *all other activities and programs are also cancelled.*

TWO-HOUR DELAYED STARTS:

A two-hour delayed start of school is used when weather conditions are changing or when weather conditions are uncertain. In case of a two-hour delay, buses will run and classes will start two hours later than usual, and classes will end at the normal time.

- Local TV and radio stations will be informed by 6:00 a.m. of the delayed start.
- If the decision is made to open school after the delay, no additional announcements will be made.
- If the decision is subsequently made to cancel school, local stations will be informed by 8:00 a.m. Keep checking the stations or the web sites.
- Decisions will also be posted at www.mssd14.org and www.flashalert.net

Morning Preschool classes are cancelled on two-hour delayed start days.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

If school is in session and a storm develops, a decision may be made to send students home early. The procedure will be as follows:

- If the decision is made to release school early, each bus driver and building principal will be notified. Bus drivers will make their regular runs in the same sequence as usual, but at the earlier time.
- **Please review with your children what they are to do if there is an early dismissal.**
- If parents believe the weather is bad enough at anytime during the day, the parent or guardian can pick up their child.

- Information about an early dismissal will be provided to TV and radio stations and will also be posted on the district web site www.mssd14.org and at www.flashalert.net
- Principals will remain at their buildings until it has been determined that all students have been transported safely and all students have left the buildings.