

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT FIFTY-SIX

Somersworth School District Office of the Superintendent of Schools

School Closure Due To Inclement Weather & Emergencies November 6, 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff,

It's that time of year when weather reports will be calling for one or more of the following: snow, ice, wintry mixes, high winds, and bitter cold. With that comes poor road conditions, power outages, safety concerns at bus stops, and other weather related problems that can lead to delayed openings, early releases, and full day cancellations of our schools.

I am the one who makes the decision to close school due to inclement weather and emergencies. Prior to making a decision, I attend state-wide emergency debriefings, monitor weather reports, as well as consult with the City of Somersworth Public Works and Utilities Department, First Student Transportation, and other area school superintendents. In addition, there are times when I may consult with the City of Somersworth Public Safety Departments (i.e., police and fire). I rely heavily upon the information I receive from public works and emergency officials. If I receive a report that it is too dangerous to send students and employees to school and work I will not do so.

Sometimes making a decision is not so clear cut. Weather conditions can change in a flash. For example: 1) the rate of snowfall per hour may be more than predicted; 2) a storm may start later than forecasted; and 3) weather can vary at different locations within Somersworth during the same weather event. Some of you may disagree with my decision to keep school open or closed. **Ultimately, parents and guardians have the final say on whether or not they send their child to school. Moreover, parents and guardians decide whether or not their high school student drives to school.**

There are a number of media platforms I use to build in redundancy to get school closure information out to you including:

- Phone calls & emails via School Messenger;
- Postings on our school and district websites; and
- WMUR Television and its website.

Please Note: The school district is in the process of adding text messaging to our School Messenger Communication System. You will be receiving information soon on how to sign up to receive text messages from the school district.

The safety of our students, faculty and staff is the highest priority when it comes to making weather and emergency related decisions. I do my utmost to make the best decisions based on the information I have available to me at the time I make my decision. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and support.

Kind regards,

Lou Goscinski, Superintendent