



# Highlands School District

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With the winter weather season approaching, we want to remind our families of the district's procedures for delaying or canceling the school day to ensure you can plan accordingly, as well as provide you with information about the district using **Flexible Instruction Days** *in place of canceling classes* due to inclement weather.

The safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance to us, so we take the decision to delay or cancel classes very seriously. During a winter weather event, the current road and weather conditions, temperature and wind chill are considered. We also consult with coordinators from the transportation company who travel the roads in the district to assess their safety. Please be aware, school delays or cancellations also can occur for other unexpected reasons, such as an area water main break, power outage, or other significant event. Be sure that you have appropriate plans in place in the event the district should need to delay, cancel, or dismiss students early.

## **Below highlights the Highlands School District's procedures and notifications for school delays and cancellations:**

- The decision to delay or cancel school will be made and communicated whenever possible before 6 a.m. and if possible, the night before. However, there are occasions that changing road and weather conditions will necessitate a later decision.
- A one call message will be sent to families notifying them of the delay or cancellation. Please make sure your phone number and email address are up to date. The Highlands School District's website and social media outlets will also post school delays or closures. Please visit [www.goldenrams.com](http://www.goldenrams.com) for information.
- Highlands also notifies three local news stations: **KDKA, WPXI, WTAE**. Please note that the school district does not control how quickly the information is updated on-air. You may consider signing up for the electronic alerts through the respective television stations.

**Early Dismissal Plans:** In the event that the Highlands School District would need to dismiss school early, please make sure your family has appropriate childcare arrangements and/or dismissal plans in place. It is important to be sure that your emergency contact information is current. If the contact information needs to be updated, please log in to PowerSchool to make any necessary changes or contact your child's school.

Please remember that parents/guardians always have the final determination as to whether or not to send their student to school. While we strive to make the best possible decisions in the timeframe we are given, unexpected winter weather issues may occur. Thank you for your support and assistance as we prepare for inclement weather.

**NEW for the 2021-2022 school year:** The Highlands School District will utilize Flexible Instruction Days (FID) in place of unexpected, emergency school closures to eliminate the need to make-up days. Specifically, the District will use FID days in place of cancellations for inclement weather for the 2021-2022 school year.

In the event that the district needs to cancel in-person instruction, all students will participate in remote instruction through their district-issued device. ***We encourage the students to bring their devices home with them each evening during the winter months.***

The transition to a Flexible Instruction Day **will be announced through a one call message and posted on the district website and social media outlets.**

- The same schedule will be followed on remote instruction days as regular school days. Students should be signed into their homerooms on time and ready to begin the school day.
- All classes will require synchronous instruction (in real time with live instruction).
- All teachers will take attendance, and there will be minimum requirements for instructional minutes.
- Students who do not participate during FID remote instruction will be marked with an unexcused absence unless a note is provided by a parent/guardian—the same procedures as a typical school day. Technical difficulties or connectivity issues should be reported to the classroom teacher.

**Logging in during a Flexible Instruction Day:**

- Students will use Google Classroom and Zoom to participate in synchronous instruction.
- Classroom teachers will share specific directions with students and families on how to connect to their class.