

Dear RPS Parents, Guardians, Students, Teachers and Staff,

It is clear that Ridgefield's weather can be a bit unpredictable, even in the month of September! As a result, we would like you to be as informed as possible.

**A few things to keep in mind:**

- An event may begin with a delay and be changed to a closure.
- An event may begin with 'in-school' and change to an early dismissal or an **extended** early dismissal. This is a very important change. Please note the difference in the word "extended" (more below).

**Other considerations:**

- A school closure cancels (or reschedules) all before and after-school events, including athletics (unless otherwise stated).
- All out-of district students/magnet students will follow the Ridgefield Public Schools schedule.

**This communication outlines the process and what you can expect during a weather event.**

**Prior to the Start of the School Day**

**The Superintendent's Process**

- An early morning regional conference call with Superintendents hosted by our weather service provider.
- A discussion with the Highway Department occurs to discuss local conditions and expectations for clearing roads.
- Consultation with our Facilities Manager/Technology Department/Transportation to discuss district accessibility.
- If needed, further collaboration with the Director of the Office of Emergency Management.
- Every attempt will be made to make a decision and communicate by 5:30 a.m. to:
  - Delay the start of school: may be 2 or 3 hours
  - Close completely
- Communication and task dissemination is made to Leadership Teams/Departments.

**What to Expect**

- Alert on RPS Website and social media by 5:45 a.m.
- Media postings by 6:00 a.m.
- Blackboard Connect message to all staff and families via text, phone call, and email between 5:45-6:00 a.m.

**After School Day Begins**

**The Superintendent's Process:**

- Regional conference call with Superintendents hosted by our weather service provider (if needed).
- Confer with the Leadership Team on Early Dismissal or **Extended** Early Dismissal/After-School Activities (weather alert/condition dependent).
- Consultation with our Facilities Manager/Technology Department/Transportation to discuss district needs.
- If needed, further collaboration with the Director of the Office of Emergency Management.
- A decision is made as soon as possible.

- Communication and task dissemination is made to Leadership Teams/Departments.

**What to Expect**

- Alert on RPS Website and social media as soon as possible.
- Media postings as soon as possible.
- Blackboard Connect message to all staff and families via text, phone call, and email as soon as possible.

<b>DELAY AND DISMISSAL HOURS 2022-2023</b>				
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>2- HR DELAY</b>	<b>3-HR DELAY</b>	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL</b>	<b>EXTENDED EARLY DISMISSAL</b>
<b>RHS/ AHS</b>	<b>9:25</b>	<b>10:25</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>11:30</b>
<b>ERMS</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>11:05</b>	<b>12:05</b>
<b>SRMS</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>11:05</b>	<b>12:05</b>
<b>BES</b>	<b>10:35</b>	<b>11:35</b>	<b>11:40</b>	<b>12:40</b>
<b>BMES</b>	<b>11:10</b>	<b>12:10</b>	<b>12:15</b>	<b>1:15</b>
<b>FES</b>	<b>11:10</b>	<b>12:10</b>	<b>12:15</b>	<b>1:15</b>
<b>RES</b>	<b>10:35</b>	<b>11:35</b>	<b>11:40</b>	<b>12:40</b>
<b>SES</b>	<b>10:35</b>	<b>11:35</b>	<b>11:40</b>	<b>12:40</b>
<b>VPES</b>	<b>11:10</b>	<b>12:10</b>	<b>12:15</b>	<b>1:15</b>
<b><a href="#">Preschool</a> (click here)</b>	<b>No AM Preschool</b>	<b>No AM Preschool</b>	<b>No PM Preschool</b>	<b>No PM Preschool</b>

**What do we need from you?**

- Accurate phone/email information in Powerschool
- Update School Dismissal Manager (if applicable) as soon as you learn of a weather dismissal
- A back-up plan for young children who may need supervision in the event of a weather emergency. In the event of an early dismissal at the elementary level, all students are dismissed home on the bus unless the school has been contacted by parents.
- An understanding that while one school may dismiss at 10:30 am, another one may not dismiss until 12:15 pm, meaning that some students may not arrive home until after 1:00 pm, which could be in the midst of a serious weather event. Our buses are on Tiers, so we don't have the option to change the timing by school.
- Empathy (trust me, these decisions are not easy!)