

## **MCSO SNOW DAY OR EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE PROTOCOL**

With winter and the stormy conditions that often come with it, Murray City School District schools will remain open if at all possible on all scheduled school days, even when weather conditions may be challenging.

During adverse conditions, we encourage parents to make attendance decisions for their children based on their specific ability to get to school safely. Not all streets are plowed at the same time, and if you do not think it is safe to send or take your kids to school during a weather incident, you have the option to keep them home. Schools understand and respect this decision and will work with families. Parents are also welcome to pick up students at school any time if you feel that transportation safety is a concern.

### **Why do we try to keep Murray schools open during inclement weather?**

Like any public service, people count on our schools to remain open. Our role in the community goes beyond providing educational services:

- Many Murray City School District students rely on their neighborhood schools for breakfast and lunch. These meals are not simply convenient; they provide nutritional needs for children who may otherwise go without.
- A significant number of students in the district would remain home alone without supervision if their school had an unscheduled closure. Many families don't have the luxury of adjusting work schedules on short notice.
- A functioning school building provides warmth and safety in addition to classroom instruction.

### **What happens if Murray schools close?**

District administrators will be monitoring weather conditions throughout the night and in early morning hours. They will be in contact with the National Weather Service, the Department of Transportation, Murray City and the Murray Board of Education prior to making any decisions. All school administrators will be advised as early as possible regarding delays or cancellations; in addition, the media will be contacted and the district automatic calling system will be activated to place calls to student homes.

### **If severe weather conditions or other events force a school closure, delayed start, or early release, the following procedures will be implemented.**

#### **Two-hour delayed start:**

1. Field trips will be canceled.
2. Breakfast programs at elementary schools will be canceled.
3. Morning pre-school will be canceled.
4. If on a planning day, the early-out schedule for that day will be canceled.

#### **Full-day closure procedure:**

1. If, after the decision for a two-hour delay, it is determined necessary to close school for the entire day, local radio and television stations will be notified as early as possible.
2. MCSO website and social media accounts will relay information.

**Early Release due to weather or other emergency situations:**

1. Automated phone calls will go to each home having provided correct information.
2. MCSD website and social media accounts will relay information.
3. Local radio and television stations will be notified as early as possible.

**Will there be after-school activities in Murray schools?**

When there is any Emergency School Closure Protocol underway within the MCSD, please check the Murray City School District Facebook or Twitter page to find out the status of after-school scheduled activities.

**Emergency Plan:**

Parents are encouraged to create an emergency plan for their students to determine with their students where to go or what to do if a parent is not home and schools are closed, delayed, or dismissed early. In the event of an early release, elementary and middle school students will be held at school until parents or guardians are notified and arrangements are made to keep the students safe.

**Remember, no announcement means normal school operation.** School closure information will be posted on the Murray City School District website at [www.murrayschools.org](http://www.murrayschools.org), through social media and local news media outlets.