Dear Parents:

As we approach the winter months and the possibility of inclement weather (snow, ice, rain), please review the following information regarding the District procedures to help ensure student safety. Please note that when road/driving conditions are impacted, we would like to urge all parents to send their students to school on the school bus as it is, according to national statistics, the safest mode of transportation. To support this, the School Board has authorized transporting students at no charge on such days. Due to the possible increase in ridership, it is possible that a bus route may be served by more than one bus.

**Snowy Weather**

Your child’s safety being our primary concern, early in the morning (4:00 AM) on days with snowy and/or icy conditions, district personnel use the best available information and resources to make the decision on whether or not to close school for the day. District staff checks road conditions through contact with CalTrans and the Department of Transportation, talking with local residents who serve as road/weather spotters, and consulting with the El Dorado High School District Transportation Department. District staff also monitors the current and impending weather situation through the local weather forecast and Doppler radar.

✔ **School is Not Closed:**

- When the decision is made to not close school, road and driving conditions may still be impacted. Heavy snowfall and/or icy road conditions make it difficult for our buses to run on their typical schedule. Buses will take longer to complete routes in these conditions. It is important to note that school closures are not based on the amount of snow on the roads, but rather on the road conditions and impending weather. Roads may be slippery and icy or be covered with deep powder with great traction.

✔ **School is Closed:**

- **Full-Day Closure:**
  - On days when the depth of overnight snow, power outages, extreme ice or poor road conditions may necessitate closing school for the entire day, we will activate our Connect-Ed telephone message system to attempt to get this information to you. You may also tune in to Radio Station KAHI (950 AM) or KSTE (650 AM) or KFBK (1530 AM) or Television Station KCRA, Channel 3 or Television Station KXTV, Channel 10 or Television Station KOVR, Channel 13 or Television Station KMAX, Channel 31 beginning at 6:00 a.m. for periodic announcements regarding schools closing. If you are unable to tune in to these stations, you are welcome to call the Transportation Department after 6:00 a.m. - 644-3750 - to hear an announcement regarding school closure. After 7:00 a.m., you may also call Pinewood School - 644-2384, Sierra Ridge School - 644-2031, or the District Office - 644-5416. In addition, school closure information will be posted on the Pollock Pines ESD website at [https://ppesd.org/](https://ppesd.org/)
**Mid-Day Closure**

- It is the district's intent to avoid closing school before the regularly scheduled dismissal time. However, if it becomes necessary to close school early because of severe weather conditions; loss of heat, water, or electricity in the schools; or other emergency conditions, it may not be possible to notify you personally before we dismiss the children. However, we will activate our ParentLink telephone message system in an effort to inform you of this occurrence. In this event, telephone numbers listed on your student’s emergency card will be called in order to notify you or someone designated as your emergency contact as soon as possible. For this reason, it is very important that the information on your student’s emergency card is updated whenever necessary. Information regarding mid-day closing will also be broadcast to parents on radio and television. If there is sufficient time, the school will attempt to notify parents by telephone, beginning with parents of the youngest children. We urge you to discuss a plan with your son or daughter that he or she should carry out if you are not home.

- Please consider the following when you are determining a plan for your child in the event of a mid-day closure:
  - If your child rides the bus, he/she will be sent on the regular bus home unless you complete and return the attached form for an alternate bus stop destination. If at all possible, please have your child go home on the same bus to the same place as he/she regularly goes.
  - If you normally pick up your child, we urge you to use our transportation system in the event of a mid-day closure. It is a safer mode of transportation, and there would be no charge. Please complete and return the attached form to tell us the bus stop destination for your child in such an event.
  - If your child normally walks home, please discuss the safest route to and from school with him/her. If you would prefer your child ride the bus to an alternate destination in the event of a mid-day closure, you must complete and return the attached form to tell us the bus stop destination for your child. There would be no charge for this service.
  - In the event of a mid-day school closure, the staff would greatly appreciate parents not picking up their children at school as cars are much more likely to have minor accidents and possibly block the road keeping the buses from being able to operate. Please understand the potential confusion this would create in the dismissal process. As an alternative, you may wish to wait for your child at his or her bus stop.

If conditions prevent your designated course of action, students will remain at or be returned to their school for safe keeping awaiting parent or guardian pick up.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in the implementation of these procedures.

Sincerely,

Pat Atkins
Superintendent