



Brownstown Central Community School Corporation

Phone 812-358-4271

608 W. Commerce St, Brownstown, IN 47220

Fax 812-358-5303

Inclement Weather and School

Beliefs

- Weather-related decisions are based on numerous variables. Decisions are made with regard to the safety of students on their way to and from school whether walking, riding a bus, or via private vehicle.
- Parents have a child-specific perspective regarding their child and the threat of inclement weather.
- A parent may decide for their child, and the school corporation will respect the perspective of the parent regarding their child.
- BCCSC respects a parent's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open, or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as absent, per state code, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic work in the same manner as an excused absence from school.
- BCCSC believes the public expects schools to be open and to provide education, supervision, and other services (including meals) to their students when it is safe to do so.
- BCCSC believes all parents are committed to keeping children safe, and these parents will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending children to school.
- Variable weather conditions are to be expected in Southern Indiana. BCCSC believes parents should have plans in place for weather-related delays and closures and believe morning notification of weather-related closures or delays is generally appropriate.

Notifications

Notification of closures or delays will be immediately disseminated through a variety of avenues:

- Emails, text messages, and/or phone calls through Harmony. Please be certain that your parent information is correct in Harmony or you may not receive these notifications.
- BCCSC website: the district page will have an alert displayed on the home screen.
- BCCSC social media accounts.
- Local TV and radio stations

Determining Factors

When the possibility of adverse weather presents itself, BCCSC uses multiple resources to assist us in making the best decision for our students and staff. Below are the factors we use to determine what action we take.

Fog

- Fog can be very tricky. Like all weather situations, the timing is critical. Fog can move in and blanket the area quickly. We will consider how greatly visibility is impacted and always consider student safety first. Decisions regarding fog delays will always be made by 6:00 a.m.

Freezing Rain/Sleet

- The most unpredictable weather variable is freezing rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature-sensitive and occurs quickly. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet is predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. This decision will generally be made in the morning.

Snowfall

- Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Meteorologists generally give a 2-inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because of the variation in actual snowfall, when compared to predicted snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will generally be made in the morning.
- Roads will be driven by Corporation Officials around 4:00 a.m. to determine the safety and drivability for school buses.

Extreme Snowfall Situations

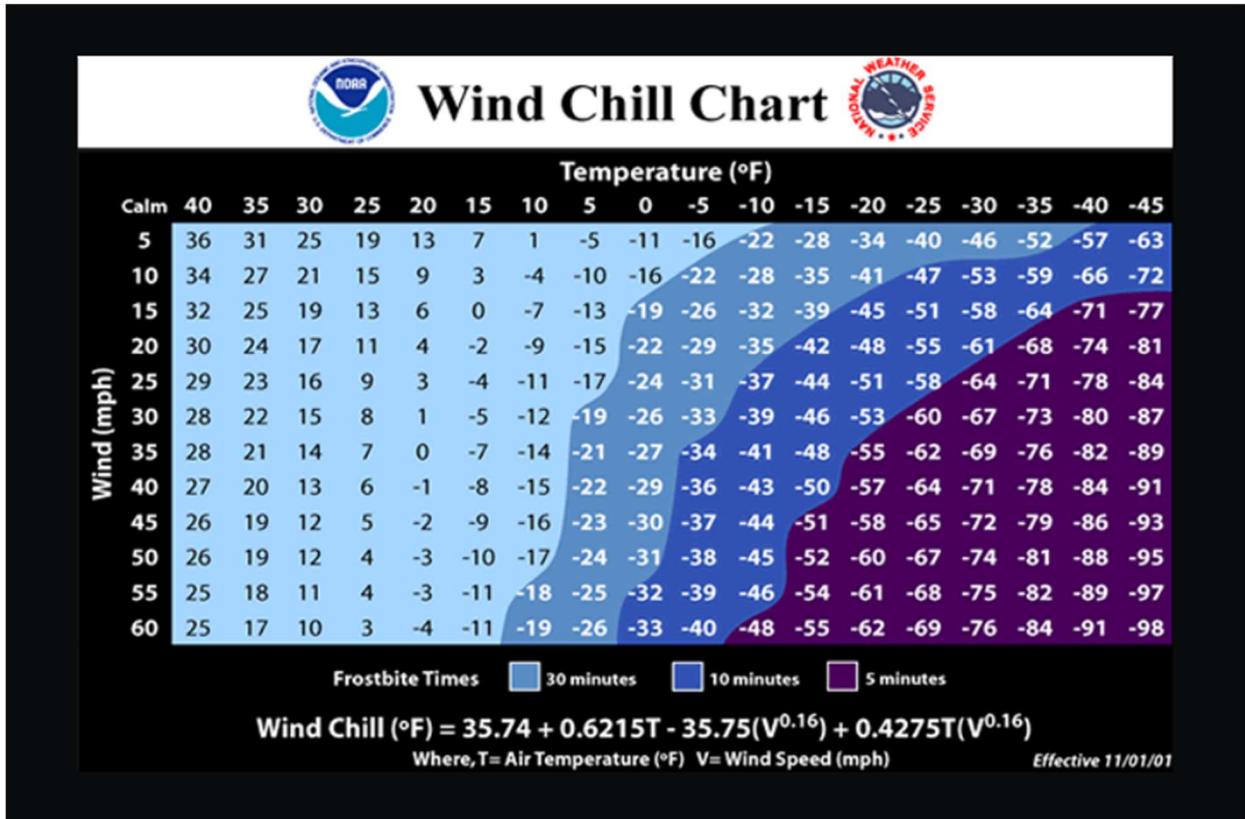
- When snow has accumulated to a significant level, or has accumulated with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening. In a possible, though less likely scenario, local authorities may indicate that it is unlikely roads will be passable by the following morning.
- Travel warnings and advisories will all be considered in the decision to close or delay.

Extreme Cold

- Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. BCCSC uses the hourly temperature predictions for its zip code from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov). If air temperature is predicted by NOAA to be -10 degrees or below (the starting point for wind chill concerns with calm wind) at 7:00 a.m. the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. If the air temperature is predicted to remain at -10 degrees or below at 9:00 a.m., the school will consider closing. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, perhaps the evening before, but certainly by 6:00 a.m.

Extreme Wind Chill

- Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. Local observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing school. Wind chill concerns emerge at a predicted wind chill temperature of -19 degrees. If wind chill is predicted by NOAA to be -19 degrees or below at 7:00 a.m., the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. If the wind chill is predicted to remain at -19 degrees at 9:00 a.m., the school will consider closing. The variability of wind speed will likely cause this decision to be made in the morning. (View [Wind Chill Chart](#))



Functional Facilities

- Utility issues (gas, electricity, water) is another factor that may cause a school to close. Issues associated with cold, including water supply to a building and electricity to a building or neighborhood, can also cause the school to close.