

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. TWO
BELTON-HONEA PATH SCHOOLS
10990 BELTON-HONEA PATH HIGHWAY
HONEA PATH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29654

November 2, 2018

Dear Parents, Staff, and Students,

With the winter months approaching, it is time to plan for inclement weather. If the law of averages holds, we will probably be having some freezing rain and/or snow between January and March. In view of this, we need to address the operation of our schools during questionable weather conditions. When inclement weather does occur, school administrators must make decisions that are sometimes extremely difficult. These decisions are even more perplexing considering the fact that school administrators have no particular expertise in the area of predicting weather.

When time permits, weather-related school decisions are based on very structured procedures. The Superintendent and the Transportation Supervisor check bus routes for hazardous driving conditions. In addition, we confer with the weather forecasting offices in both Anderson and Greenville. Administrators in the surrounding districts are also contacted. Since many buses begin their routes at 6:15-6:30 a.m., these procedures, prior to the decision, normally take place from 4:00-6:00 a.m.

If schools are to operate as usual, no announcement will be made. Many radio and television stations will announce only those districts that close or delay opening. Therefore, these stations request that individuals not call the stations because these calls can tie up their phone lines and prevent school administrators from contacting them with any announcement.

Anderson District Two began using School Messenger as a District-wide notification system in August 2011. You should receive an automated telephone call from the District notifying you of current school closings or delays if your correct telephone information is on file at school. There is room for error with any automated system. If you do not receive a phone call when weather conditions are questionable, please continue to monitor the radio, television stations, and the District's website at www.anderson2.org, for school delays or closing information.

Once the decision is made (6:00 a.m.) to operate schools, there is virtually no way of reversing the decision until around 8:15 a.m. Unfortunately, the weather sometimes worsens around 7:00 a.m. When this occurs, we can only wait until the students arrive at school.

Sometimes, snow, freezing rain, or sleet begins during the school day. When this happens, we rely on the weather forecasters and the State Highway Department to help us decide about possible early dismissal. Due to the fact that many small children would be sent to locked or empty homes because parents are at work, we are very hesitant to dismiss early unless weather conditions mandate this step.

There are times when we receive snow or sleet during the night without advanced warning. When this happens or when icy conditions develop during the school day, we try to make the best decision possible. In fact, we take every step that we know in order to make sound decisions regarding inclement weather. If the sun comes out after we have made an earlier decision to close school, then our decision obviously appears foolish. If this happens, then we just simply have to live with the decision.

In closing, it should be noted that you make the final decision relative to sending your children to school if there is hazardous weather. To be sure, we sometimes make mistakes in these weather-related decisions. On the other hand, most serious accidents involving student transportation occur on clear, dry highways. During inclement weather, drivers usually exercise more caution and drive slower. It should also be noted that we normally experience about twelve days per year of slick spots or icy roads. Should we close each of these days, then the school year would be extended almost into June. This option is obviously not very appealing.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. Be assured that we will make every attempt to make reasonable decisions when the weather poses a potential hazard.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard Rosenberger
Superintendent

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If the decision is made to close schools, we notify the radio and television stations listed below:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Dial Setting (T.V.)</u>	<u>Radio</u>
WANS Anderson		1280 AM, 107 FM
WAIM Anderson		1230 AM, 101.1 FM
WESC Greenville		660 AM, 92.5 FM
WFBC Greenville		93.7 FM
WMYI		102.5 FM
WSSL Greenville		100.5 FM
WLOS Asheville	Channel 13	
WSPA Spartanburg	Channel 7	
WYFF Greenville	Channel 4	