

Hello BCS Parents,

The winter season is upon us and we want to share with you some very important information regarding notifications you'll receive when severe weather disrupts our school schedule.

Information regarding school closings/delays is available in English and Spanish through multiple sources. These include:

- The school district website (buncombeschools.org)
- The BCS 24-hour information hotline in Spanish 828-255-5948 and in English 828-255-5939;
- Social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram);
- Our automatic BCS notification system (telephone, text, and email) via SchoolMessenger;
- Download BCS app from Android or Apple app store for weather notifications (Search "Buncombe County Schools" in your phone's app store).
- It is very important that you contact your child's school and make sure your current phone number is listed in Power School. This ensures that our phone calls will reach you.

If we are dealing with a winter weather event overnight, every effort is made to make a decision about that day's school schedule and get the information out to parents and students as soon as possible. We will choose to close school that day or begin the day on a 1, 2 or 3-hour delay. Our goal is to make a determination before 6:00 a.m. However, the geographic diversity of our county coupled with weather unpredictability does not always allow this to occur. The safety of our students and employees remains the highest priority in the decision-making process and is never compromised.

If a weather event impacts the schedule after school has already begun for the day, we will decide on 1, 2, or 3 hour early dismissals. This will allow for staggered bus dismissal times. This means that your child will be dismissed 1, 2 or 3 hours earlier than normal. Please contact your child's principal if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Susanne Swanger
Associate Superintendent