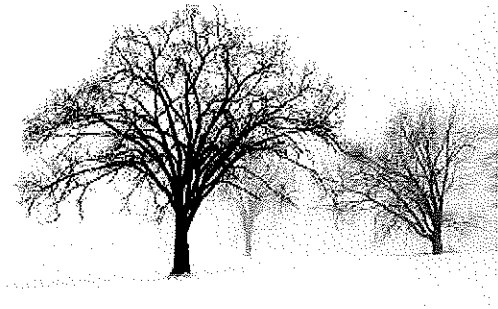


## Dear Eatonville Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the winter season. Our district staff understands that our decision to open or close schools in bad weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served - both academically and socially - by being in school. But as always, our top priority is the safety of our students and our staff.



### HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the police. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. Also, we must consider that some high school students drive to school. Our district's boundaries are extremely spread out from Mt. Rainier to Bethel SD, so this complicates the decision process.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- Whether precipitation is continuing.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- Parking lot conditions. Administrators talk to maintenance and custodial staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- Temperature and wind chill. Please remember that some of our students walk to school and some must wait outside for the bus.
- Weather predictions. We prefer not make our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But sometimes this is unavoidable.
- What other school districts are doing. We also share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

### WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

As superintendent of schools, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from the Managers of Transportation and Facilities.

### HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

A robo call through Flash Alert will be made to all current households. Eatonville School District has a 24-hour hotline (360) 879-1100 that will have updated information and will publicize school information by local area radio and television stations that cover school closures and delays. Please see the district website for Flash Alert app installation for the most updated notifications

### WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

I must make the decision by 5:00 am or earlier so we can notify radio and TV stations and post the decision on our website. If I wait longer to announce a closing, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised. The process for this often starts at 3am with the Manager of Transportation driving the roads of the district.

### TRANSPORTATION

When there are icy or snowy conditions busses will run on designated snow routes. Check out the transportation web site for school closures and snow route information. If you or your teenager normally drive to school your student is welcome to take the bus on snowy or icy days. You may access bus routes, snow routes, delays and closures on the transportation web page.

<http://www.eatonville.wednet.edu/Page/729>

### WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Keep in mind that, even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision in the morning without endangering students. Once we make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have any early dismissal, but we will give adequate notice to all parents first.

Although my staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend. Also, discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process that our district staff uses to make the best possible decision for all in our district. We value the safety and security for all of our students. Be safe this season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krestin Bahr", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Krestin Bahr,  
Superintendent