



# SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education -14 Beekman Terrace- Summit - New Jersey 07901-1702 (908) 273-3023

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Mr. Scott Hough, Superintendent of Schools

## Inclement Weather Update

December 13, 2020

Dear Summit Public Schools Community,

As we look ahead to the winter months, I would like to take this opportunity to share how the District will make weather-related decisions to alter the school day or close schools for the safety of our students and staff.

The District's weather-related decision-making process includes evaluating weather forecasts for New Jersey, the City of Summit, and neighboring school districts. Our main priority is always the safety of the students and staff. We strive to make informed decisions and notify families as early as possible. However, as weather can be unpredictable, we cannot always make these decisions as early as we would hope. Please know that when we anticipate inclement weather, every effort will be made to provide updates in a timely manner as changes develop.

During this unique school year, the New Jersey Department of Education is allowing remote learning to count towards instructional days due to inclement weather. With this option available, our plan is to use discretion depending on the timing and severity of pending inclement weather to decide when to close school or use the remote learning option.

### Delayed Opening (not practical with hybrid schedule)

With our current hybrid schedule, it is not practical to call a delayed opening when marginal weather is expected. Utilizing a delayed opening would only allow for approximately two hours of in-person instruction, which does not maximize student learning in all content areas. In the event we experience inclement weather that would typically require a delayed opening, we will likely utilize the remote learning option for the full day to maximize student learning, and ensure the safety of our students and staff.

### Early Dismissal

If pending inclement weather is expected to begin in the afternoon, we may utilize an early dismissal to allow for the full four hours of in-person instruction to occur as usual. This would mean that afternoon remote instruction would be cancelled as well as all after school activities. Cancelling afternoon instruction and after school activities may be necessary to allow for the safe travel of our students and staff. If we anticipate that the timing of a pending storm would not allow us to safely complete the full four hours of in-person instruction, we will likely utilize the remote learning option for the full day to maximize student learning.



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## School Closing

Our District has six emergency days built into our 2020-2021 school calendar. If there is a significant weather event that would require a school closure in a “normal” year, we will continue to use a “snow day” in the traditional sense to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The decision to close school instead of utilizing the remote learning option is based on the unpredictability that significant storms may have on our ability to deliver meaningful instruction remotely. The potential of power outages and internet connectivity issues occurring in Summit and across the state may prohibit the continuity of instruction throughout the day. Should it be an extreme winter, we may utilize the remote option to ensure we do not have to alter the school calendar. We will make this decision based on the need to reserve some built in emergency days for other unexpected events, i.e. water main break, natural disaster, etc.

Members of the Summit community can expect to receive weather-related alerts through our emergency notification system. They will also be posted on our [website](#) and social media pages.

Be well,

Scott D. Hough  
Superintendent of Schools