



Somerville Public Schools

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To: Honorable School Committee
Re: SPS Weather Preparedness Memo

With the winter season upon us, we offer the following reminder of weather-related protocols in our district, and support available to students and families who may need additional assistance at this time.

School Cancellation or Late Starts due to Snow or Other Inclement Weather:

School Cancellation

A decision to cancel school is not made lightly. Our goal is to keep schools open and students engaged in their learning and social interaction.

[Multiple factors are considered](#) in determining whether to cancel school due to snow or other inclement weather conditions, foremost being the safety of our students, staff, and families. In partnership with many other city departments, we monitor local and regional weather and travel conditions to ensure that we make an informed decision. In some cases, the decision is clear; in many cases, it is not. We make the best decision we can based on the information available at the time.

Once a decision has been made to cancel school, families and staff will be notified via voicemail and email, and through other district and city communications platforms. We make every effort to notify families as early as possible the evening before so that families can adequately plan.

Late Start

Should the conditions be such that a late start to the school day would allow students and staff to safely get to school, we have established procedures for a [2-hour late start](#). In the event of a late start, we make every effort to notify families via voicemail and email the previous evening by 8:00 p.m.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities will take place as scheduled, unless absolutely necessary. The district will determine whether the temperature and wind-chill are severe enough to cancel outdoor recess. A basic framework for weather decisions is the following:

Below 10 degrees: Indoor Recess

Below 32 degrees: Coat, long pants, gloves/mittens & hats as appropriate

More detail can be found at [Child Care Weather Watch](#). We strongly encourage students to dress in layers and wear appropriate footwear during the winter season.

Additional Supports Available

The winter months can present additional challenges for some of our students and families. Emergency winter clothing is available for any student in need through their school-based Family and Community Liaison, or by contacting Regina Bertholdo or Jennifer Ochoa in the SFLC Basic Needs and Housing Support Office. The [SFLC website](#) includes other important resources available to our students and families.