



Back Pack Express

A message from the superintendent

School Delays and Cancellations

Many ask, “What factors are considered when delaying or cancelling school?” Although each day’s weather conditions may dictate a unique decision to delay or cancel school, here are some typical factors used to help make our decision.

- ✓ First, and foremost, student safety is paramount. We support parents’ rights to take their time when bringing students to school on delayed school days or to keep their child(ren) home if they feel this is the safest decision during inclement weather.
- ✓ If a decision to delay or cancel school can be made the night before, we will do our best to make that decision so parents can plan ahead. If the forecast is not certain and it’s unclear if a delay or cancellation is best, our team will begin the process of deciding on a delay or cancellation at 4:00 a.m. that morning.
- ✓ We monitor several different weather apps as well as local news programs to see if pending changes in the forecast are positive or if they look worse as we get closer to the start of school.
- ✓ We begin by driving the city and country roads, looking for drifts as well as snow and ice coverage. We remain in contact with our transportation supervisor who considers bus safety on the roads. Additionally, we work with the city to monitor progress of salting/plowing streets when necessary. It’s important for us to note that high school (novice) drivers will be negotiating the current weather conditions when making a decision as well.
- ✓ While driving the streets, we will take note of sidewalk conditions to see if they are properly cleared for students to walk on.
- ✓ Temperatures are a factor with our decision as we don’t want students exposed to extreme temperatures for extended periods of time.
- ✓ Fog delays are much more difficult to predict. As with winter weather, we drive the roads and monitor the fog forecast with apps and local news stations. Conditions can unexpectedly change once a decision to attend school has been made that day. Patchy fog can occur in sections of town as well. If this occurs, we encourage parents and students to take their time and be safe.

Once all important factors are considered our team will meet to decide if a delay will possibly provide the time to provide for safe travel. If the forecast does not look good, school will be cancelled at that time. If there is a delay, our goal is to communicate the decision by 6:00 a.m.

(Over)

Be the first to know!

When a decision is made to delay or cancel school, the first line of communication is through Social Media. It's fast and the posts are shared quickly helping us to spread the news rapidly. Parents and students can be the first to know by following Piqua City Schools on the following Social Media formats:



Superintendent:

<https://twitter.com/EducatorDwayne>



<https://twitter.com/piquacityschool>



<https://www.facebook.com/PiquaCitySchools/>



<https://www.instagram.com/piquacityschool/>

Parents can also check the Piqua City Schools' Website for important delay and cancellation notices at www.piqua.org.

Finally, an **InTouch** call will be recorded and delivered to all registered phone numbers we have on file. It's important for parents to keep their contact information updated so we can provide timely messages. Parents can update contact information through their parent **One View** account located on the District Website at www.piqua.org.

Students – Help Us Announce Delays and Cancellations!

Piqua City Schools is inviting students to get creative and help us create fun ways to announce school delays and cancellations. Students in grades K-12 are encouraged to create cartoons, artwork, memes, or a video (30 seconds or less) announcing a Piqua City Schools delay or cancellation. Students may send their creations now to the superintendent at thompsond@piqua.org or drop them off at the Piqua Board of Education Office at 215 Looney Road. We will hold all creations until they may be needed. If there is a delay or cancellation, we will post selected artwork on our social media formats to help us make the announcement that day. We look forward to seeing your designs!

When submitting your projects, please label it according to one of the categories below:

- Two-Hour Delay (fog)
- Two-Hour Delay (snow/ice)
- Two-Hour Delay (cold temperatures)
- Cancellation (fog)
- Cancellation (snow/ice)
- Cancellation (cold temperatures)

