

Getting Ready for Snow Days!

Important Transportation Information and What Families Can Do to Prepare

The Denver Public Schools Transportation Department is here to provide your child with safe transportation to and from school. We have provided the following Frequently Asked Questions and safety tips to help you prepare for winter weather.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the best way to find out about school closures due to winter weather?

A: For your convenience, DPS communicates school-closure information in many ways:

- Visit www.dpsk12.org. This is the very first place school closures are posted.
- Call (720) 423-3200. This is the DPS main phone number that will be updated with a recorded message if school closures are being considered or have taken effect.
- Watch local news. Most TV stations report school closures the night before or the morning of.

Q: If school is open but busses are running late due to winter weather, will families be notified?

A: If busses are more than 15 minutes behind schedule, this information will be posted to the Transportation hotline (720) 423-4699.

Q: If school is closed, will transportation be provided for after-school activities?

A: Transportation is not provided on days when schools are closed.

Winter Weather Bus Safety Tips

- Check for closures! Visit www.dpsk12.org, call (720) 423-3200 or watch TV news to see if school is cancelled. If not, be sure to do all of the following.
- Dress warmly! Students should be dressed in cold-weather clothing, including a coat, hat, gloves and warm footwear.
- Stay alert! Encourage your student to “Stop, Look and Listen” when walking and crossing streets. Hoodies, headphones and phones can distract students from surrounding traffic.
- Leave plenty of time! As the weather gets colder, students want to wait until the bus arrives to go to their stop. This results in students running after the bus, which is dangerous, or in the bus waiting for students. This can cause additional delays which forces other students to wait longer in the cold.
- Wait for the bus to stop! Students should wait for the bus to stop completely before approaching the bus to get on or before standing up to get off. Always use caution when stepping on or off the bus and wait for the driver’s signal to cross in front of the bus when loading or unloading.
- Remember the danger zone! The “Danger Zone” is the area immediately around the bus; make sure the driver can see you to help make loading and unloading safe.

Contact Transportation

(720) 423-4699 • <http://transportation.dpsk12.org>

2012 – 2013 DPS Transportation Winter Weather Communications



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The decision to keep schools open or to close them during winter weather conditions is not a simple one, but it is made with one overriding factor in mind: the well-being of our students, their families, and staff. As winter approaches, DPS Transportation has made preparations to ensure buses are running and students arrive safely to school. Our drivers participate in a comprehensive training program that includes preparation for driving in inclement weather and adverse conditions like wintry weather. They also conduct a daily pre-trip inspection of their buses before they go on their route.

DPS Transportation will monitor weather, roads and the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) plowing of the streets traveled by buses and children. Please remember that weather and street conditions can vary greatly within Denver boundaries. As a courtesy to parents, who traditionally turn to their student's respective school for information, please post the below information on your websites as well. It is also important that schools have accurate telephone numbers and emergency contact information for parents.

If DPS Schools Close Due to Severe Weather:

Transportation will not run any buses. The decision to close is made by the Superintendent based on information provided by representatives from transportation agencies, the weather bureau, city and county law enforcement and DPS Transportation. All after-school activities, including middle and high school athletics, are cancelled, and therefore, there is no transportation for these activities either. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make contingency plans for the care of their student in the event that school is canceled.

If DPS Schools Remain Open During Inclement Weather:

The required transportation will be provided. However, services may be modified to ensure both driver and student safety and welfare. Traffic conditions may require students to spend additional time en route to school, special activities, programs or home. Buses could be delayed up to 15 minutes due to the inclement weather.

If Severe Weather Occurs During the School Day:

DPS will closely monitor severe weather conditions and forecasts throughout the day to ensure student safety. Should severe weather begin during the school day, bus routes will run in the same order as normally followed in the afternoon. Depending on conditions, arrival times at home may be delayed. After-school activities (athletic events, enrichment programs, etc.) may be modified or cancelled as a result of the weather conditions.

School Closure Communication

- If the decision is made to close school, the Communications Office will immediately notify local television and radio stations, which will broadcast regular announcements of school closures or delays. You can also visit the DenverChannel.com, 9News.com, KDVR.com and denver.cbslocal.com. Notifications in Spanish will be made on radio newscasts on 1150 AM, 1280 AM and 1090 AM.
- Emergency school closures will be posted on the district's homepage (www.dpsk12.org) and the DPS Transportation homepage (<http://transportation.dpsk12.org/>) immediately.
- Announcements to close school will also be posted to the district's Facebook (www.facebook.com/DenverPublicSchools) and Twitter (@DPSNewsNow) pages.
- A message denoting the closure or late start will also be left on the school district's closure hotline at 720.423.3200, as well on the DPS Transportation hotline at 720.423.4699.
- DPS employees should check their e-mails regularly.