

EBCE - School Closings and Cancellations

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At various times throughout the year, our region experiences both anticipated weather events such as snowstorms, wind and ice storms as well as unanticipated emergency events such as power outages. The district works collaboratively together with the Emergency Management Directors for both Eliot and South Berwick, each town's Chief of Police, Fire Chief and Public Works Director to develop a coherent set of emergency protocols and a communication system for both anticipated weather events and for unanticipated emergency events. These clear protocols essentially require the district to gather as much information as possible to make an informed decision regarding our schools' opening, closing or delayed start times before 6:00 a.m. and then to communicate any change to our usual school opening times to over 2,600 contacts.

Since weather and conditions surrounding other unanticipated emergency events can change quickly, there will always be a myriad of nuanced contingencies that present themselves within the decision-making process. As a result, there may be occasions when parents/guardians decide to keep their child home when schools are open. In the event that a parent/guardian decides to keep their child home due to inclement weather, please follow District attendance procedures and it will be marked as an excused absence.

Finally, although we cannot predict what media systems will be operational or offline at individual homes or workplaces during a weather event or other unanticipated emergency, we have developed numerous pathways for delivering information regarding our schools' status. These information pathways include:

- Posting on the District's website front page: www.rsu35.org
- Posting on the District's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marshwood-Schools/258524500918045>
- Notification via TV channels 6, 8 & 13
- Phone message and email via District Communication Platforms

The District holds the safety of our students and staff as its highest priority and strives to make the best decision with the best available information at the time regarding school closings or delayed starts for our District's schools and activities.

Policy Adopted: November 15, 2017

Policy Revised: March 16, 2022; February 12, 2025

