

PHILOMATH SCHOOL DISTRICT 17J INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURE

The potential for winter weather to affect the safe operation of our schools is upon us and it is time to review our school closure process. When we are faced with the potential of unsafe conditions, we will use a process that includes the use of the weather forecasts, radar imagery, and reports to us from our transportation supervisor as to road conditions. The decision to hold classes or cancel school for the day is based upon whether or not we believe it is safe to transport children to school. If the information we gather indicates it is unsafe for our children to come to school a decision will be made prior to 6:00 AM and we will do our best to make that decision much earlier if possible with a target of the prior evening when appropriate. There are three decisions we may make with our information: First, we may decide to hold school, but use snow routes for our buses. Snow route details are located on our school district web site. Second, we could ask for a 2-hour delay and continue to monitor the weather for any changes that may occur. Third, a decision could be made to cancel school for the day.

In any event, if snow routes are required, school is delayed, or school is canceled a message will be sent out to you via phone, email, and text using the School Messenger software recently purchased by the district to aid in communication. It will be announced over area radio stations, including KLOO, 1340 AM, KLOO 106.3 FM, and KRKT 99.9 FM, KXPC 103.7 FM. Stations are notified by 6:00 a.m. Eugene TV stations KVAL (channel 13) or KEZI (channel 9) are also notified, and the information is posted on the school web site @ www.philomathsd.net. The district also subscribes to a system called **FlashAlert**. You are able to self-register to receive emergency information just minutes after posted, at no cost to you. < See the instructions to sign up at the bottom of this page >

Please understand that the decision to cancel school is a difficult decision and not made lightly as we must take into consideration the condition of roads throughout the district. While roads in your area may be passable, others in the district may be compromised and student safety is our first and foremost consideration. The school district always respects and appreciates the judgment of parents in such cases. Anytime parents feel that it is unsafe to send their children to school, they are encouraged to keep their children at home. Any such absence would be excused.

In rare circumstances, it may be necessary to dismiss school early and send children home before the regular time. This would happen only in serious emergencies or if the threat of adverse conditions makes it imperative. We are very reluctant to send children home early, especially in bad weather, because sending a child home to a locked house where he/she might be unattended and unsheltered for several hours could well be worse than keeping them at school and running the risk of slick roads, rising water, etc. Parents who feel that approaching weather conditions make it important for their children to go home are encouraged to come to the school(s) and pick their children up.

SEE INCLEMENT WEATHER ALTERNATE BUS ROUTES

To register for Flash Alert – go to www.FlashAlert.net

On the top menu bar, select “**Manage Your Messages**” and “**Create New Account**”. Select Eugene/Springfield/Roseburg/Albany/Corvallis; Benton County Schools; and Philomath School District. Enter your primary email address and “Subscribe.” Confirm your email address. Create a password. Click to receive a validation message. Enter the code in the box from the message you receive via email and “Update.” On the tabs, you can then add more email addresses (My Email Address), link phone apps (FlashAlert Messenger), review current subscriptions, add subscriptions, or change your password. The option to delete the account altogether is available as well.

All addresses registered on FlashAlert will remain confidential and shall not be released to any person or organization. Once a year, you will receive an email at your primary address asking if you wish to continue your subscription.