

School Closure & Delayed Start Schedule



When inclement weather conditions occur, either a school closure or a delayed schedule may be announced. The district automated messaging system (SchoolMessenger) will be initiated to make a call to all phone numbers provided by parents/guardians and staff members. Area television stations will be notified. Information will be available on the front page of the Weld Re-3J website at www.re3j.com, on the Weather Line (303-536-2070), and the District Facebook page. All notifications will be made by 5:30 a.m. or as soon as practicable.

Keep in mind, ***you will only receive alerts if schools are closed or operating on a 2-hour delay.*** If schools are open and operating on a normal schedule you will not receive an alert.

In the Event of a District Closure

- School will not be in session for that day for any grade level.
- School bus service will not be available.
- All district buildings will be closed.
- All district events will be canceled. (Cancellations include athletic events unless state competitions are still being held.)

If schools are open but a parent feels, based on personal circumstances, that conditions pose a safety concern for their child getting to or from school, the parent can call the school for an excused absence. Students will not be penalized for their absence under these circumstances.

In the Event of a Delayed Morning Start (2-Hour Delay)

The Weld Re-3J may announce a 2-hour delayed start if temporary adverse weather conditions exist in the morning, including but not limited to high winds, cold temperatures, severe fog, or unfavorable road conditions for the morning drive time. In the event of a 2-hour delayed start, **school will start two hours after the normal time at every level**, and morning bus pick-up times will also be two hours after the normal pick-up.

Example: If your child's school normally starts at 8:05 a.m., it will start at 10:05 a.m. If your child normally boards the bus at 7:18 a.m., they will board the bus at 9:18 a.m.

School will end at its normal time and afternoon bus drop-off times will not be adjusted.

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Things to note during an announced 2-hour delayed start:

- **Transportation:** Morning bus pick-up will be two hours after the normal pick-up time. Afternoon bus drop-off times will not be adjusted.
- **Preschool and Kindergarten:** Morning (AM) Preschool at all district elementary schools (Meadow Ridge, Hudson, and Hoff) will be canceled. Afternoon (PM) Preschool students will attend school and have bus service, if applicable, on their normal schedule.
- **Walkers:** Students who walk to school should plan to arrive at school no earlier than 15 minutes before the start of the school day on the delayed schedule.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Activities and field trips during the school day that require transportation will be canceled. After-school activities will be decided by each school's administration.
- **Nutrition:** Breakfast will not be served at district schools in the event of a delayed start. Lunch times may be adjusted based on the delayed start schedule.
- **Early Release Day (Monday):** A 2-hour delayed start protocol will never be utilized on a Monday. School will either be open or closed.

A 2-hour delayed start maximizes instructional time with students rather than closing for the entire day and gives the district, town, and county staff additional time to clear roads, sidewalks, and parking lots to ensure the safety of the Weld Re-3J community.

In the Event of an Early Release

If school is in session and unsafe conditions develop, students may be released early. The district automated messaging system (SchoolMessenger) and area television stations as well as will be used to advise families of the early release.

- **Transportation:** Buses will drop off students at their regular bus stops.
- **Plans:** Parents are advised to provide their children with an early release plan in the event they cannot meet their children at home.

During hazardous weather, parents may pick up their children from school at any time. Students will not be penalized for their absence under these circumstances.

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District Process and Considerations for Closures or Delayed-Start Schedules

Weld Re-3J staff considers the following factors in making any weather-related decision:

- Current and Forecasted Weather Conditions
- Projected Snow Accumulation
- Road Conditions (Both town and rural)
- Ability to Access Buildings
- Temperature and Wind Chill
- Visibility

In addition, Weld Re-3J performs the following:

- Consults with Weld County and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding their road sanding plans.
- Exchanges vital weather information and road conditions with neighboring school districts.
- Assigns staff members to drive on district roads beginning in the early morning hours to inspect road conditions.

Weld County School District Re-3J places the safety of students and staff at the center of all decisions regarding school closures or cancellations. Weather predictions are challenging, even for trained professionals. The decision whether or not to cancel school is complex and never taken lightly. Weld Re-3J administration will work diligently to make the best informed decision possible. Consideration is given to the impact on families and their ability to travel safely. Schools are not only vital places of learning for students, but they also provide nutrition, health care, counseling, and essential support services. Whenever possible, Weld Re-3J strives to keep schools open.

Reviewed: November 2022