

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

NOVEMBER 20, 2023



Dear CPU Families, Staff, and Community Members:

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I wanted to shed some light on the decision-making process behind weather-related delays or cancellations in our area. I also would like to share CPU's communication framework when these events occur.

First, let me express my sincere appreciation for your understanding and cooperation during inclement weather. **The safety and well-being of our students are paramount in every decision we make, especially when it comes to weather-related disruptions.** Please note that for weather-related matters, when it comes down to it, a parent's decision to keep their child home will **never** be counted against their attendance record.

In CPU, we face a range of weather challenges from dense fog advisories to winter storms along with extreme cold temperatures. Our decision to delay or cancel school is never taken lightly as it impacts both school and family schedules. Please know that any decision involves careful consideration of various factors to ensure everyone's safety.

There are **multiple factors** used when making any weather-related decision that impacts school. Our process includes:

- Closely monitoring weather forecasts from reliable sources such as local meteorologists, the National Weather Service, and the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- Paying special attention to predicted snowfall, wind chill, road conditions, and overall safety concerns.
- Collaboration and communication with area superintendents/districts.

Once we have a comprehensive understanding of the [predicted] weather conditions, a decision is made. A **delay** means our Directors of Transportation, Maintenance, and Custodial Services began work for a safe arrival to school while a **cancellation** means there will be no school. While a delay **can** turn into a cancellation if conditions deteriorate, once a cancellation occurs it's final.

I 100% understand that any weather-related decision can have a significant impact on families which is why the district will strive to communicate to all stakeholders as early as possible. **For early morning decisions, we endeavor to make a decision by 6:00 am (or before) in order to notify parents and staff immediately.**

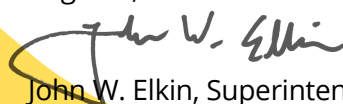
We will use various channels to provide timely and accurate information in the following priority order:

- #1 - Email and text Notifications:** Infinite Campus Messenger will be used to email and/or text message to parents, guardians, and staff in the event of a safety or weather related event.
- #2 - Local Media Outlets:** KCRG, KGAN, & KWWL.
- #3 - CPU's Official Social Media Accounts:** Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).

Additional information about weather-related delays or closings including school schedules, the hard surface plan, etc. can be found on our website **by clicking the below image.**

Again, I want to assure all stakeholders that every decision is made with the utmost care and consideration for the well-being of our students, families, staff, and community. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school district.

Regards,


John W. Elkin, Superintendent



#CPUNation