



Mr. Mark D. Francesconi, Superintendent
Dr. Jane Larson, Assistant Superintendent Secondary Education
Mr. Steven R. Manering, Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education
Mr. M. Greg Hunt, Chief Financial Officer

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Each year, questions surface as to who makes the decisions regarding school delays and cancellations and what factors are considered. At the La Porte Community School Corporation, we rely on a team consisting of our Transportation Director, Director of Maintenance, and our CFO. This team advises the Superintendent on conditions related to visibility, temperature, snow accumulation/predictions, road conditions, snow-plow progress reports, the feasibility of starting buses, and the clearing of our school lots, sidewalks, etc.

The team strives to make their final determination by 5:15 a.m. Team members rise early to contact sources and travel roads before reporting their findings. Once a determination is made, we then begin communicating the delay or cancellation via automated phone messaging, texts, website postings, and media contacts. There is no easy rule to follow when making decisions regarding delays and cancellations. Temperatures below zero concern the team. However, temperatures well above zero can produce wind chills below zero. Complicating matters is the fact that La Porte County is the second largest county in Indiana, and temperatures, wind chills, and thermometer readings vary within our own district. Obviously, visibility and road conditions are important when making decisions on snow delays or cancellations. Predicting when snow will start or stop is not easy and, again, conditions vary within our own school district. Our team is committed to erring on the side of caution while balancing the reality that severe weather conditions are likely during our winters and the "real world" doesn't close or have two-hour delays.

We want our parents to be at ease regarding the safety of their children. If your children are in a bus-serviced area, we encourage you to take advantage of that transportation option. Our drivers are committed to safely transporting your children.

Lastly, in the event that you are uncomfortable sending your child to school because of the weather conditions, you have the right to keep your child at home until such time that you believe the conditions are favorable for safe travel. Each school allows for a reasonable number of parent-excused absences before the school initiates excessive-absence interventions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark D. Francesconi".

Mark D. Francesconi
Superintendent

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