



Colchester Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In preparation for inclement weather and the winter season, this correspondence explains the procedures regarding **no school, delayed opening, and/or early closing**. The District website also contains information on these topics: [School Closings](#)

NO SCHOOL OR DELAYED SCHOOL OPENING PROCEDURES

Main Method of Communication

Announcements will be broadcast through the radio and television stations listed below. If possible, these announcements will be broadcast beginning at 5:00 AM. We request that you do not call the schools, M&J Bus Company, or the radio/TV stations, as it ties up telephone lines that may be needed for emergencies. **I highly recommend that you sign up for Early Warning Text/Email Alerts at one of the stations listed below.**

Television Stations

FOX 61
Channel 3 (WFSB)
Channel 8 (WTNH)
Channel 30 (WVIT)

Radio Stations

WTIC (AM1080/FM96.5)
WCTY (FM97.7)
WKNL/ROXY (FM100.9)
WICH (AM1310)

The District will also text and/or email you. You must **opt in** to receive text message alerts through SchoolMessenger. **Simply text the word YES to the number 67587.** The number that you will receive the text message from is 67587. If a “no school” decision can be made the previous evening before 9:00PM, in addition to emailing you, **announcements will be broadcast through the radio and television stations** listed above. We will not text after 9:00PM.

The schedule for a **2-hour delayed opening** of school is as follows:

School	Start Time	End Time
PreK / Early Childhood Program – AM	Canceled	Canceled
PreK / Early Childhood Program – PM	12:40 PM	3:10 PM
Colchester Elementary School – Grades K-2 & School Day Prek	10:35 AM	3:15 PM
Jack Jackter Intermediate School – Grades 3-5	10:35 AM	3:15 PM
William J. Johnston Middle School – Grades 6-8	9:20 AM	2:00 PM
Bacon Academy – Grades 9-12	9:35 AM	2:15 PM

EARLY CLOSING PROCEDURE

A decision to close school early due to inclement weather and rapidly changing weather conditions will generally be announced by 10:00AM by the listed radio and TV stations. In addition, **for unanticipated early closings**, the District will call you.

When schools are dismissed early, the following will also be canceled: PM Pre-K, all afternoon Early Childhood Program classes, extracurricular activities, and after-school community activities.

The schedule for an **early closing** is detailed below:

School	Start Time	End Time
PreK / Early Childhood Program – AM	8:35 AM	10:35 AM
PreK / Early Childhood Program – PM	Canceled	Canceled
Colchester Elementary School – Grades K-2 & School Day Prek	8:35 AM	12:55 PM
Jack Jackter Intermediate School – Grades 3-5	8:35 AM	12:55 PM
William J. Johnston Middle School – Grades 6-8	7:20 AM	11:40 AM
Bacon Academy – Grades 9-12	7:35 AM	11:55 PM

Often, rapidly-changing weather conditions can have a dramatic impact on our timeline in making a final determination regarding school closures.

Every decision made is with the most up to date information and always in the best interest and safety of the students placed under our care.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas Y. McDowell,
Superintendent of Schools