

P-CCS Cold Weather School Closure Guidelines

As cold and snowy conditions return to the area for the winter months, we would like to remind everyone that the most important factor in determining whether or not we have school is the safety of our students. This includes making sure we have the ability to transport students to school using bussing, that students who walk to school can do so safely, and so students can safely travel between buildings during the school day at P-CEP.

The decision to close school is made using expert information from many sources including a professional meteorologist, local safety officials, neighboring districts, internal maintenance staff, transportation services and by administrators actually going outside and driving the roads.

As a cold weather temperature guideline, P-CCS uses a wind chill of -20 degrees or colder as a point of consideration to cancel school, as medical research proves that frostbite can set in if a person is exposed to this temperature for 15 or more minutes.



That wind chill threshold is a starting point, but the timing of the temperature, how much the temperature is related to wind, and the duration of the cold temperatures are all considered as well.

We strongly encourage all students to dress appropriately for all weather conditions, but particularly during the winter season to always be prepared with a coat, hat, and gloves, as well as appropriate footwear. When the decision is made to close school due to inclement weather, the quickest and easiest way to learn about the closings will be through our robocall system; please make sure we have your most current phone number on file through Parent Portal, as this provides the info that is aligned with the robocall system. School closing announcements are also available via the official P-CCS website at www.pccsk12.com, on the official P-CCS Twitter and Facebook sites, and through local television and radio media outlets.

For more resources and information, visit the National Weather Service cold weather informational page at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/windchill.shtml> . For a wind chill chart, please visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/windchill-images/windchillchart3.pdf>.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring a safe and healthy winter for our students!