



# Seymour | COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## Inclement Weather Guidelines

### Beliefs

- Weather-related decisions, regarding the delay or cancellation of school as opposed to remaining in session and on time, are based on numerous variables. Decisions are made keeping in mind the safety of students on their way to and from school; whether walking/cycling, riding a bus or arriving via a private vehicle (including teenage drivers).
- Parents have a child-specific perspective regarding their child and the threat of inclement weather.
- SCSC respects a parent's determination regarding their child's attendance at school during inclement weather. If school is open, or delayed, because of inclement weather, the school will respect the parent's decision to keep their child at home. Parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of their determination. The student will be counted as an "excused absence", per SCSC guidelines, and students will be given an opportunity to complete their academic assignments for credit.
- SCSC believes that it is best for schools to be open and provide education, supervision and other services (including meals) to our students when it is safe to do so.
- SCSC believes all parents are committed to keeping children safe and that they will dress their children appropriately for the weather when sending children to school.
- Variable weather conditions are to be expected in our area. SCSC parents should have plans in place for weather-related delays and closures and believe morning notification of weather-related closures or delays is generally appropriate.

### Notifications

- Notification of closures or delays will be immediately disseminated through a variety of methods, including:
  - Emails, text messages and/or phone calls through Harmony. Please be certain that your contact information is correct in Harmony or you may not receive these notifications.
  - SCSC Website: The District page ([www.scsc.k12.in.us](http://www.scsc.k12.in.us)) will have an icon, in the top right hand corner, indicating the status of schools.
  - SCSC related social media accounts
  - Local TV and Radio Stations

## Determining Factors

When the possibility of adverse weather presents itself, SCSC uses multiple resources to assist us in making the best decision for our students and staff. Below are the factors we use to determine what action we take.

### Fog

- Fog can be very tricky. Like all weather conditions, the timing is critical. Fog can move in and blanket an area very quickly. We will consider how greatly visibility is impacted and always consider student safety first. Decisions regarding fog delays will typically be made by 6:00 am.

### Freezing Rain/Sleet

- The most unpredictable weather variable is freezing rain/sleet. Freezing rain/sleet is temperature-sensitive and occurs quickly. It begins and ends with little notice. When freezing rain/sleet is predicted, the decision regarding school is delayed until the latest possible time in an effort to observe the most current and local conditions. This decision will generally be made in the morning.

### Snowfall

- Snowfall is more predictable than freezing rain/sleet. Meteorologists generally give a 2-inch variable when predicting snow accumulation. Because of the variation in actual snowfall, when compared to predicted snowfall, the decision regarding school status is delayed until the snow accumulation indicates a need for action. Such a decision, except in extreme situations, will generally be made in the morning.
- Roads will be driven by SCSC officials around 4:00 am to determine the safety and drivability for school buses. Additionally, building and bus stop access is a consideration.

### Extreme Snowfall Situations

- When snow has accumulated to a significant level, or has accumulated with more snowfall predicted, then the decision regarding school may be made the previous evening. In a possible, though less likely scenario, local authorities may indicate that it is unlikely roads will be passable the following morning.
- Travel warnings and advisories will all be considered in the decision to close or delay.

### Extreme Cold

- Temperature prediction is increasingly accurate. SCSC uses the hourly temperature predictions for its zip code, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). If air temperature is predicted by NOAA to be -10 degrees or below (the starting point for wind chill concerns with calm wind) at 8:00 am, the school will consider a two-hour delay for the start of school. If the air temperature is predicted to remain at -10 degrees or below at 10:00 am, the school will consider closing. Such a determination will be made as early as possible, perhaps the evening before, but certainly by 6:00 am.



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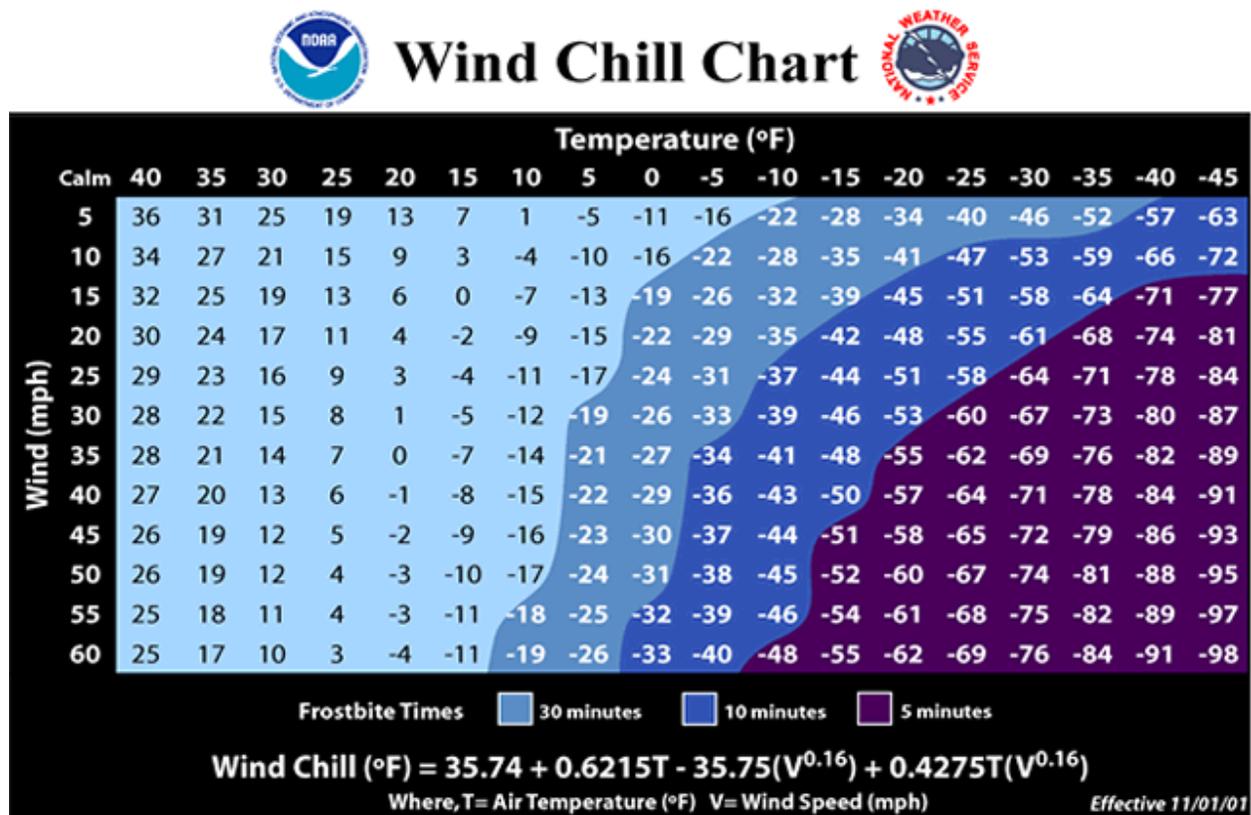
scscsuperintendent  
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<https://www.scsc.k12.in.us>

### Extreme Wind Chill

- Wind chill prediction is not as accurate as temperature prediction because wind speed is more variable by time and location. Local observations of wind speed will affect the decision regarding delaying or closing school. Wind chill concerns emerge at a predicted wind chill temperature of -18 degrees. If wind chill is predicted, by NOAA, to be -18 degrees or below at 8:00 am, the school will consider a two-hour delay. If the wind chill is predicted to remain at -18 degrees at 10:00 am, the school will consider closing. The variability of wind speed will likely cause this decision to be made in the morning.



### Functional Facilities

- Utility issues (gas, electric and water) is another factor that may cause a school to delay or close. Issues associated with cold, including water supply to a building and electricity to a building or neighborhood, can also cause the school to close.