

# Burgin Independent Schools' Cold Weather Policy

Attention Parents & Guardians:

During the winter months several factors come into play that could delay the start of school or cause school to be closed. One such factor is the wind chill on a given day. On particularly cold mornings we continuously monitor the National Weather Service and closely monitor the weather conditions. There are two possible scenarios that come from the National Weather Service: a Wind Chill Advisory and a Wind Chill Warning. The National Weather Service defines the two as the following:

**Wind Chill Advisory:** Wind Chills between -20 and -34 degrees and at least a 4 mph wind for 3 hours or more.

**Wind Chill Warning:** Wind Chills -35 degrees and below with at least a 4 mph wind for 3 hours or more.

When the National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Warning for Burgin for the time the school day begins, we will make a decision to close school. It is quite likely we will make this type of decision on the morning of the day in question as it is hard to predict what the wind chill will be the night before. If there is a Wind Chill Advisory for the area, school will likely be open unless there are operational problems with the bus fleet or mechanical problems in the school buildings. Our reasoning for this is that we are a door to door bus service (98%); therefore the cold temperature does not affect us the way it will other school systems. Buildings and the bus fleet are assessed in the morning prior to school by 6:45 am.

As a parent if you determine that the weather conditions are too dangerous for your child to be out we respect your decision. You are free to contact the school to request an excused absence for the day. If your child misses school because your car will not start or other issues related to extreme cold temperatures, those reasons will be counted as an excused absence. Please make sure you contact the attendance office at school to report the absence.

Understand that the safety of our staff and students is our top priority when making the decision to delay or close school. We can assure you that our school buildings are warm, safe and an ideal place for students to be when it is extremely cold outside. Parents should make sure their child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather. The district urges students to wear winter hats, gloves, heavy coats and boots.

To get more information on how the wind chill is calculated see the wind chill conversion chart from the National Weather Service.