



## Mineral County School District

751 A. Street, P. O. Box 1540, Hawthorne, Nevada 89415

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Andre' L. Ponder, Superintendent

**Board of Trustees: Keith Neville-President**

**Tyler Viani-Vice President**

**Kathryn Castagnola-Clerk**

**Member: Juanita Diede**

**Member: Candice Birchum**

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As the health and safety of our students and staff is our number one concern, I feel the need to communicate with you on the important issue of emergency closing(s) of the school district or any of our schools. We know that unforeseen situations may occur at any time, which may cause an inconvenience for childcare that comes with power outages and other inclement weather conditions. I want to take a few moments to outline our district's procedures for closings and delays and request your understanding as we continue with this process. I also encourage you to update your phone numbers so that we may transmit emergency information effectively. In the event of a school closure, we will make every effort to communicate quickly and effectively and other pertinent information will also be available on each school's Facebook pages.

**Adjust as necessary** - District transportation personnel cover district roads beginning around 5:50 a.m. each morning. This coverage includes roads in all towns in our school district. In some weather conditions, district personnel speaks with Department of Transportation personnel. If there is a safety concern, I am notified and will talk to transportation personnel before making a decision.

In most circumstances, the decision to close or delay is made as early as possible, and a robo call is made to all staff and parents. Decisions to delay are made for a variety of reasons: (1) when the weather conditions prevent safe to travel on roads for buses, or (2) there are power outages throughout the community that impacts the school district.

**There are a few more points that I would like to make:**

1. School buses are very safe for children to be in - they are heavy, well maintained, and driven by well-trained and qualified individuals in our district. In inclement weather conditions, students are much safer in buses than in cars.

2. Snow, high winds, and rain rarely close schools, but a power outage may warrant a complete closure. An approaching storm may not be overly concerning but visibility and road conditions are critical issues to consider.

3. Sporting events and travel to games may also be impacted.

Again, I stress that the safety of our children is paramount for parents and educators. Planning is essential - for parents and the school district, and we will continue to develop resources to react to and adjust to changing conditions when unforeseen situations occur.

Sincerely,

  
Andre' Ponder, Superintendent

*The vision of the Mineral County School District is to become the best system where graduates can be competitive for any degree or job they pursue. The Mineral County Board of Trustees believes in being united in working for the best education possible for our children. The District believes it is important to instill in our children a pride in our District and the education they receive here; and to prepare our student's compete in today's society.*