



STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where kids achieve!

410 East LeFevre ■ Sterling, IL 61081 ■ 815-626-5050

www.sterlingpublicschools.org ■ R. Tad Everett, Superintendent of Schools

To the Parents and Guardians of Sterling Public Schools students,

During my time as the Superintendent of Schools for Sterling Public Schools I have been asked more questions about the delay or cancelation of school than any other topic. As a result of these questions, I considered it important to establish this “weather website.” Its purpose is simply to provide specific, factual, and clear information on the process of how decisions are made to delay or cancel school due to inclement weather.

Even though each inclement weather situation is unique, the decision to delay or cancel school really boils down to three weather-related items. They are snow, ice and extremely cold temperatures. Because snow and ice greatly impact road conditions, for the purpose of this website I combined them into one category and segregated the issue of extremely cold temperatures. In either of these two scenarios, snow/ice or extremely cold temperatures, I spend a lot of time carefully analyzing all relevant factors prior to making a final decision about delaying or cancelling school. I have often been asked, “What makes this decision so difficult?” The answer is that I must balance student safety against student security. Please allow me to explain. Student safety is jeopardized when road conditions are poor or there are extremely cold temperatures. At the same time, student security is an issue due to student supervision, or better yet, a lack there of. A common parental complaint on days with a delayed or cancelled schedule is that their children are left at home unsupervised. At the early elementary ages, this is a big concern.

So let me summarize. I always talk about doing what is best for our students and staff, and in this case it should be no different. As I have explained, what becomes difficult is the weighing of student health against student security. Just so you know, there is no right or wrong answer to this dilemma which is one reason why delaying or cancelling school is a difficult decision. What I can assure you is that the decision to delay the start of school, dismiss students early, or cancel school all together is one I have never, or never will, take lightly.

If you have questions or comments regarding this process, or would like to add a question to the FAQ, please do not hesitate to email me at teverett@sps5.org.

Respectfully,

R. Tad Everett

November 2014