

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To the West Deptford Schools Community:

We would like to outline the procedure for the West Deptford School District that will be followed in the event of inclement weather. The Department of Education has communicated the following regarding emergency closures for the 2020-2021 academic year:

Because we are still under a public health emergency, school districts can provide remote instruction in lieu of a snow day this year. When we are no longer under this public health emergency, the authorization to use virtual/remote instruction in lieu of a snow day will only apply if the district is closed for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, per N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, P.L.2020, c.27 (A3904). Information about inclement weather can be found on our FAQs page: <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/index.shtml> (please check under the "Instruction Provided to Students in Remote Learning Environments" section).

We are excited to take advantage of new flexibility afforded to us by the NJ Department of Education, which is currently in place for this school year only. In the past, inclement weather would have resulted in a delayed opening, early dismissal, or closing of school entirely. This year, West Deptford schools will simply follow the same schedule as we have been following for our scheduled synchronous remote school day. In the event of inclement weather, ALL students will participate virtually, regardless of your cohort.

We will call for a virtual day ONLY if there is questionable weather that may prohibit safe transportation for our staff and/or students. Since we are permitted to provide remote instruction this year, we will not need to implement delayed openings or early dismissals. Should we need to cancel in-person instruction due to inclement weather, you will receive the news via school messenger early in the morning, and all staff and students will participate in the regular school day virtually from their homes. Students will still be required to sign-in to Qualtrics for attendance by the normal cut-off time. All staff will be available via email for questions or extra help following the same schedule we have been using since our return to hybrid instruction.

Please note that this procedure will be followed for ANY weather-related virtual day that may become necessary for the remainder of the current academic year. Parents, please contact your school principal with any general questions, or contact your child's school counselor with more specific, individual inquiries.

Thank you for your continued support of the West Deptford Township School District, and as always, be safe!

Greg Cappello
Superintendent