

USD 434 SANTA FE TRAIL WINTER WEATHER PROCEDURE 2023-2024

Inclement Weather Procedures:

USD 434 recognizes that having snow days can be both exciting and difficult for families based on the various needs. Please have a proactive plan in place for childcare when our district makes the decision to close due to weather. The district wants to emphasize that student, staff, and family safety is our TOP priority. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation are monitoring the road conditions of a very large geographic district that spreads across 201 square miles, over four different counties, and three communities. We also have numerous staff members that commute from Topeka, Lawrence, Kansas City and other surrounding cities. Our city sidewalks, parking lots, temperatures, district busses/vehicles, and forecast are also monitored for decision making. All of these factors are taken in consideration when our safety is at stake. Thank you for understanding our process and procedures during these difficult decisions.

School Closures due to weather conditions:

- The Superintendent of Schools makes the decision to close school due to weather. School closures will also likely cancel all school activities and community groups that use our facilities on those days. If weather significantly changes throughout the day it will be at the discretion of administration to allow activities to be held as optional for students. We will communicate time changes, transportation support, and other information that may apply to those activities.
- Winter weather communication will be sent out via text, email, social media, school website, and area news media such as WIBW and KSNT. We will communicate before 10 pm if confident of weather conditions otherwise by 5:30 am on the morning of closure. Our goal is to inform you the night before to support families. Please make sure that current phone numbers and email addresses are up to date in your PowerSchool Parent Portal <https://usd434.powerschool.com/public/> Please email sfthelpdesk@usd434.us if you need support making those changes.

CONTINUED Inclement Weather Procedures:

- We do NOT practice two-hour delay procedures at this time due to numerous factors including staffing, roads, scheduling and more. We will continue to research how this may be a possibility for us in the future if it aligns with our priority for safety.
- Parents may choose to keep their children home for health and safety reasons. Please contact your child's school to report their absence.

Early Release due to weather during school hours:

- The district will try to avoid unexpected early dismissals. On occasion, early dismissal is unavoidable. Parents should make prior arrangements for the supervision of their children.
- It is important for schools to be able to reach parents and designated child care providers during daytime hours. Please make sure that current phone numbers and email addresses are on file in PowerSchool. Please email sfthelpdesk@usd434.us if you need support making those changes.
- When it is necessary to dismiss children early during a regular school day, the district will contact parents via text, email, and area media outlets. If weather conditions worsen and schools remain open, parents may choose to pick up their children early after informing school staff.

Employee Duties:

Only staff who are performing weather-related or time-sensitive tasks, as directed by their supervisor, report to work when schools are closed.

Please review these winter weather safety tips from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Winter Safety](#)

Again, thank you for your support and attention to these procedures during inclement weather.

CONNECT WITH US VIA SCHOOL MESSENGER: TEXT AND EMAIL MASS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



*The Trusted Platform
for School Community Engagement*

Parents, Guardians & Staff

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "**Stop**".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!**



**Just send
"Y" or "Yes"
to 67587**