



## **An important message from Pineland's Executive Director**

### About weather-related delays and closures

January 2024

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the winter season approaches, with it comes the potential for school closures or delays. We fully understand that this impacts families greatly. We also know that our students are best served – both academically and socially – by being in school, but student safety is our top priority. Please help us to be prepared for inclement weather and other emergencies by reviewing the information below.

#### WHAT FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED?

Conditions can vary greatly by geography. Pineland students and staff travel from all parts of South Jersey, so the decision to close school or have a delayed opening can be complicated. Here is what school leadership considers when inclement weather or an emergency develops:

- Road conditions
- Accumulation of snow/ice over multiple counties
- Weather forecasting reports
- Building and grounds
  - Safety/preparedness of walkways and parking lots
  - Operations like power/electricity, heat, and water
- Sending school district and county decisions
- Transportation company decisions

#### HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

You will receive an email, text, and/or voice message from our school messaging system. You may also check our district website at [www.pinelandschool.org](http://www.pinelandschool.org) or tune to local TV and radio stations (KYW New Radio, CBS Philly, or 6 ABC - school closing #949). **Please do not call the school phone number to seek school closure or delay information.**

#### WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

We make every effort to make the decision to delay or cancel school by 5:30 a.m. or earlier.

#### WHAT IF WE HAVE A 2-HOUR DELAYED OPENING?

- When Pineland has a 2-hour delayed opening, school **begins at 10:00 a.m. for students.**
- If your school district's start time differs from ours, the expectation is that transportation will be provided based on Pineland's 2-hour delayed schedule.

WHAT IF CONDITIONS WORSEN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

We rarely close school early for weather-related conditions; however, Pineland tries to remain flexible in working with our districts and their transportation providers. This means we may need to dismiss students early if their district transportation is operating on an early dismissal schedule.

HOW IS TRANSPORTATION AFFECTED BY A SENDING DISTRICT CLOSURE?

Pineland may be open when other school districts are closed. In such cases, we ask that transportation be provided so our students may attend school.

WHEN WILL WE MAKE UP DAYS IF SCHOOL IS CLOSED?

Make-up school days may be added on: January 12, February 16, March 18, June 17-21 and June 24-28.

Although we do our best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists, and we appreciate your partnership and understanding.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Graham  
Executive Director