



How are school closures and delays communicated?

1. The **School Messenger** system is used to send automated calls, emails and/or texts to parents based on the contact information provided to your child's school.
2. Local **TV and radio stations** will be notified.
3. Information is posted on the **Rochester School District website** and **Facebook** page.
4. **FlashAlert** notifications will be provided to anyone who has signed up for their free notification service. It's available via a smart phone app and email. [Click here for instructions.](#)
5. When power outages limit people's access to information, we ask those in our community who get the notification to **pass it along to their friends and neighbors.**

How does RSD make a decision to delay or cancel school?

A team of staff check **road conditions** while others gather the **latest weather forecast** for our area and any information available from **Puget Sound Energy, Thurston County's Road Operations**, etc. Since many RSD staff members live outside Rochester, their ability to make it to work is also accessed.

All of this information is used by the superintendent to make a decision. Of course, conditions can change rapidly and forecasts aren't always accurate. Therefore, a day may start with a two-hour delay then later school may be canceled.

The decision to delay or cancel school impacts thousands of people and isn't taken lightly.

If a decision is made to run on-time or the start of school is delayed, it is essential to access your individual family's circumstances.

- If you have a **teen driver**, you may want to have him/her ride the bus. **When road conditions are compromised, First Student will stop to pick up any student who is waiting along a bus route, even if they aren't a pre-arranged bus rider.**
- If your child rides the bus, **remind him/her not to wait too close to the roadway and to be patient.** Buses will likely be behind schedule. If students have waited an excessive amount of time for the bus, double check to make school hasn't been cancelled or contact the bus garage at 360-273-5055.
- If you drive your child to school, watch for and down trees or power lines and give yourself extra time.