



Moscow School District #281

650 N. Cleveland St. Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-1120 fax (208) 883-4440 www.ms281.org

Dr. Gregory J. Bailey, Superintendent

Carrie Brooks, Curriculum Director
Jennifer Johnson, Business Manager

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Administration
650 N. Cleveland
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.1120
FAX: 208.883.4440

Moscow High School
402 E. Fifth Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2591
FAX: 208.892.1136

Moscow Middle School
1410 East D Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.3577
FAX: 208.892.1182

Lena Whitmore Elementary
110 S. Blaine
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2621
FAX: 208.892.1202

A.B. McDonald Elementary
2323 East D Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.0228
FAX: 208.892.1216

J. Russell Elementary
119 N. Adams
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2715
FAX: 208.892.1241

West Park Elementary
510 Home Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.2714
FAX: 208.892.1259

Paradise Creek Regional High School
1314 S. Main Moscow, ID 83843
208.882.3687
FAX: 208.882.6815

Support Services Facility
FAX: 208.892.1265
Location:
2245 White Avenue
Facilities
208.892.1129
Food Service
208.892.1123
Transportation
208.882.3933

MSD NOTIFICATION: WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSURES

Snow Day Plan of Action:

When the decision to close school is made, I'll begin by sending an email and phone message through our mass communication program School Messenger. School Messenger is updated each evening by connecting with PowerSchool. The primary phone number and email address provided by the parent/guardian will be the contact information used for these messages. If you have not provided the most updated phone or email address to your child's school office you will not be contacted.

A message will be sent at 5:30 a.m. to instructional staff, custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, media groups (KXLY TV, KREM TV, KHQ TV, KLEW TV, Inland Northwest News Radio/NWPR, and KQQQ/KHTR Radio), principals, and other local non-MSD school administrators. A second message will go out at 6:00 a.m. to families and MSD Board of Trustees. I will also post a brief message on Moscow School District #281, our Facebook page, and our website www.ms281.org as soon as possible after 5:30 a.m.

Frequently asked questions regarding school closures are:

- **How are snow days decided?**

First, it begins as early as 4:00 a.m. when Greg Harris, Transportation Supervisor, and I - drive on the roads, view the internet weather forecasts, and contact county/city road departments to check on road conditions. We will also view the traffic cameras, located within Moscow and along Highway 95, to determine current conditions throughout the region. A prediction is made to decide whether the storm will continue or be short lived. After reviewing all of the information, the final decision to close school will be made no later than 5:15 a.m. This is based on whether there is drifting snow in the surrounding areas, the roads are extremely slick, and if the weather appears to be getting worse or a forecast predicts that the poor weather will continue.

- **Why does the Moscow School District not utilize a two-hour delayed start on questionable days?**

School bus drivers are not full-time employees and many of our drivers have other jobs to go to between routes. We do not have spare drivers to meet the needs of transportation on a delayed school start.

- **Will the District announce an early release if the weather gets worse throughout the day?**

Typically, I will not as there is a real concern that a student may be going home to a locked house or no one - home at all. We would only make such a call in a worst-case scenario. However, we

do encourage parents to pick up their child at their earliest convenience if they believe the increasingly poor conditions will make it hard to get home safely. We also strongly encourage parents to arrange a ride for their child if winds are at an extremely high speed, and their child typically walks home. This is due to the possibility of their child being injured by loose items flying around outside.

- **Can I keep my child home if school is open, when I believe it is in the best interest for my child to remain home?**

Yes, please understand that as superintendent, I make the decision whether school is open or closed based on the conditions that will affect the school day. However, you as a parent can ultimately decide whether your child attends school or not. Our district has a 90% attendance requirement, which means that your child has a limit of 9 days per semester that can be missed. Please use them wisely.

I understand completely, that we might disagree on the decision to keep school open or closed under tough weather conditions. Some parents want the schools closed with just a few inches of snow; others don't see why we would ever close school. We live in the Northwest, where snowy and slick roads are common throughout the winter, and all of us have to plan to commute in such conditions. In the early dark hours of the morning, I truly understand the impact this decision is to all of the stakeholders in our school and community. If you disagree, then please make the decision you believe is correct for your family, as safety above all is our number one priority.