

ASTORIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

402 NORTH JEFFERSON ST. ~ ASTORIA, IL 61501 ~ USA
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DON L. WILLETT, SUPERINTENDENT

Weather Related School Closing Information

It is that time of the year where we will be seeing and experiencing winter conditions that may result in the decision to cancel school from time to time.

Inserted in our school calendar this year we have designated 8 snow days in preparation of poor weather conditions during the winter season. We have made this provision in order to fulfill state requirements related to student attendance. We are hopeful that we do not experience a rough winter like we did last year.

Several factors play into the equation to cancel school. Our utmost priority is the safety of our students and staff. Transportation is a key component related to safety. The rural Fulton County roads can be very difficult to navigate with right amount of wind and snow. We also utilized frequent communication from the Fulton County engineer, Fulton County ESDA, weather stations, Internet and local school superintendents in the area to give reports of weather and road conditions in their local area. We also use information from bus drivers based on their experience and administration will drive on the local roads to check conditions.

We use -20 Fahrenheit (usually wind-chill) as our cancellation temperature. Multiple weather websites are used to develop information about temperature, wind speed and forecast for our local weather conditions. The -20 F is a standard temperature used throughout the Fulton County school districts for cancellation.

A concerted effort is always put forth in making these cancellation decisions. We do our best to communicate cancellations as early as we can to allow you the ability to make alternate plans for your children. Our hope is that all parents are on our School Reach phone list. You will be notified once that procedure has been enacted and this is the first line of communication we use to notify of a cancellation. If your phone number has changed please contact either office at the school and we will update our records. In addition, we do notify local TV stations and radio stations of the cancellation.

We hope this notice helps you to better understand the process by which we use to cancel school on days when the weather does not cooperate. If you ever have any questions please contact my office at the phone number above or 309-329-2156.