

Emergency Weather Information

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy prioritizes the safety of our students and staff during adverse weather conditions, and this sometimes necessitates a change in the school day. We encourage our families to have a detailed plan for school closings, 2-hour delays, and early dismissals and share these plans with your children so they know what to do on these days.

Determining the best action plan during inclement weather requires much thought and collaboration. While our final decision regarding early dismissals, 2-hour delays, and school closings is a delicate one, we would like our families to keep in mind the following:

- The weather in Northwest Indiana is often unpredictable, especially during the winter months. TBLA will monitor weather forecasts as closely as possible during adverse weather events.
- Our ability to provide advance notice of weather-related delays and cancellations depends on the type of weather event.
- TBLA respects the decisions of our families to do what is best for their children. Families who keep their children home due to adverse weather should contact the school to report the absence.

Determining Factors

TBLA uses several avenues to make the best decisions during adverse weather events. Below are the factors we use to determine what action, if any, we must take.

Monitoring Changing Conditions & Forecasts

When presented with the possibility of adverse weather conditions, TBLA officials continually monitor current conditions and forecasts.

Assessment of Road & Temperature Conditions

TBLA officials coordinate with the Gary Street Department, Lake County Roads Department, the TBLA Operation Manager to determine the ability of our students to arrive safely at school. The TBLA Maintenance Department will often work during the

pre-dawn hours and throughout the day to clear our parking lots and sidewalks of snow, and they will provide updates on snowfall totals, their ability to keep the lots and sidewalks clear, and visibility conditions. If visibility is good, the roads are clear, and wind chill temperatures are no longer dangerous by 6:00 a.m., school will remain in session.

Causes of an Early Dismissal, 2-Hour Delay, or School Closure

Snowfall & Low Visibility

Due to the uncertainty of snowfall totals, decisions regarding 2-hour delays or school closures will often be made in the morning when district, city, and county officials can determine the safety of our streets and visibility while driving. Occasionally, meteorologists will forecast with significant certainty high amounts of snow and/or low visibility. In this case, TBLA may call a 2-hour delay or school closure the evening before.

Extreme Cold & Wind Chill

The forecast for extreme temperatures and wind chills will occasionally cause a 2-hour delay or school closure. TBLA officials closely monitor these temperatures and will call for a 2-hour delay or school closure either the evening before or the morning of the forecasted weather. *(Recess will be moved inside when temperatures exceed 10 degrees.)*

Freezing Rain/Sleet

Forecasting freezing rain and sleet is extremely difficult, as air and ground temperatures must be favorable for ice formation. Therefore, deciding whether to delay or cancel school is difficult. When freezing rain and/or sleet is predicted, TBLA officials will work with our maintenance department, city and county officials, and forecasts to evaluate road conditions and determine whether to delay or close school. Due to the unpredictable nature, this determination may not be made until the morning.

Severe Thunderstorms & Tornado Warnings

The warmer months of the year can bring about warnings for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. As with snow and sleet forecasts, predicting the possibility of an oncoming

thunderstorm or tornado can be difficult. Damage or power outages may cause TBLA to call a two-hour delay or close school for the day. Additionally, severe thunderstorms and tornado warnings may cause a delayed dismissal at the end of the school day. District officials will closely monitor conditions from the National Weather Service and work with local organizations, such as NIPSCO and law enforcement agencies, to determine a plan that is in the best interest of all students. Due to the unpredictable nature, this determination may be made at a moment's notice.

Types of School Closings

2-Hour Delay

On a 2-hour delay, all arrival procedures will be pushed back exactly two (2) hours. School start times are as follows:

- Elementary: 10:00 a.m.
- Middle School: 10:00 a.m.
- High School: 10:30 a.m.

A school cancelation may be announced if a delay is declared and conditions do not improve.

Early Dismissal

An early dismissal is called when school is already in session, and a weather event or safety concern arises. In these situations, every effort will be made to announce the dismissal at least one and a half (1.5) hours prior to the dismissal times. A notification will be issued via our ParentSquare notification system, district social media sites, district website, and school closing information websites.

School Closings

When forecasts predict severe weather conditions or there is a safety concern, TBLA may cancel the school day. In the event that school is canceled, students and families will receive directions regarding how to access the day's classwork. Depending on the timing of the inclement day, schools may host a synchronous e-learning day (Google Meets), an asynchronous e-learning day (independent work completed at home), or a makeup day. Every effort will be made to contact our families by 6:00 a.m. the morning

of the cancelation. When our schools are closed, all extra-curricular activities, events, and sports are canceled as well.

Delayed Dismissal

When severe weather creates unsafe weather conditions, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado, at the end of the school day, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy may delay the dismissal of students. Every effort will be made to contact our families as soon as possible, and district officials will notify parents when students are dismissed.

Notification of 2-Hour Delays, Early Dismissals, & School Closures

TBLA families will be notified of 2-hour delays, early dismissals, and school closures via our ParentSquare notification service. This service will automatically notify the phone number and email address provided to us at registration and what is on file with your child's school. It is vital that this information is up-to-date and accurate; contact your child's school if you need to change or update your contact information.

We also encourage our families to obtain updates on the status of the school by visiting our website and social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.