

KIPP Minnesota School Closure Policy

Safety First

Closing school is a complicated decision that affects students, staff and families. Our schools provide students with a safe and stable place to learn. Closing school may cause some families hardships related to finding childcare. Closing school is an exception and we do everything possible to keep schools open. The primary criteria we consider when making a decision include:

- The safety, health, and well-being of students and staff
- Severity of the weather (extreme cold, flooding, etc.) and timing of weather (overnight, weekend, etc.)
- Severity and timing of possible building emergencies
- The ability for buses and cars to travel safely

We continually monitor the forecast from the National Weather Service, and our leadership team communicates in order to make the best decision for students, staff and families. Staff members work throughout the evening and early morning each severe weather day to ensure that buses will run at or near schedule and that students will be safe. The Ops Team works closely with the bus company to ensure the buses are ready for cold weather situations.

Conditions Leading to Closure

The following conditions will prompt school closures:

- Heat Day
 - KIPP Minnesota will consider canceling classes in buildings if the heat index (a combination of temperature and humidity) reaches at least 105°F for more than three hours per day for two consecutive days, or reaches more than 115°F for any period of time.
- Cold Day
 - KIPP Minnesota will likely cancel classes if the wind chill forecast for 6:30 a.m. the following day is -35° or colder, with winds of at least 5 to 10 miles per hour.
- Snow Day
 - KIPP Minnesota will close schools if road conditions are such that travel becomes too hazardous for buses and cars. KIPP Minnesota will consider closing school if travel delays become so great that staff cannot reach the buildings in order to teach students or students will be out at bus stops for an excessive amount of time.
 - This may happen if it snows 6 inches or more in 12 hours, or 8 inches or more in 24 hours. Every winter storm is different, so it is possible that classes will still be held even if snowfall reaches these limits.
 - We may also close school if conditions approach blizzard criteria, even if snowfall amounts are lower.
- Facilities Emergency
 - KIPP Minnesota will consider canceling classes in the event of a facilities emergency that would lead to unsafe learning conditions, including but not limited to a gas leak,

school flooding, or other facility-related conditions that could cause harm or disruption to students or staff.

- Disease Outbreak
 - KIPP Minnesota will consider canceling classes in the event of a widespread outbreak of a communicable disease, including but not limited to COVID-19.

Types of Closures

Families should assume school is in session unless they are otherwise notified. In the event an emergency impacts school operations, KIPP Minnesota may close school, or- during an immediate emergency- dismiss early or start late. The following are the possible scenarios:

- School is not canceled
 - Families should assume that classes are in session unless otherwise notified.
- Late start or early dismissal
 - These options are only used during emergencies because they have a significant impact on transportation and child care. We will notify families as early as possible.
- Close school
 - KIPP Minnesota may cancel school based on any of the conditions indicated above.
 - Closure is for all student classes.
 - All after-school field trips and after-school student activities and events will be canceled unless specifically stated.
 - Athletic events will be canceled unless specifically stated.

Making the Decision

KIPP Minnesota will generally, but not always, follow the lead of the Minneapolis Public School District for closure decisions, and has adopted similar closure policies. The KIPP Minnesota Chief Executive Officer makes the final decision after consulting with the leadership team and other stakeholders as needed.

When the decision is made, the following communications will be sent out by the following parties:

- Operations Team
 - All-call, text, and email to all families
 - Notification to Transportation
 - Notification to Partner staff
 - Notification to lunch service team
 - Notification to custodial service team
 - Notification sent to WCCO and Kare11
 - Notification to outside service providers
 - GroupMe to staff
 - Team email to staff
- Communications Team
 - Announcement on Facebook
 - Announcement on the KIPP Minnesota website