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## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

# KPBSD SCHOOL DELAYS AND CLOSURES

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is committed to school safety, and educating every student. When the decision is made to close or delay the start of school for two-hours, an involved process takes place before the decision is communicated. Additionally, if a school make-up day is necessary, several factors contribute to determine the date for one or more make-up days of school.

Timing of the decision is crucial so we can notify transportation before busses begin their routes, employees head to work, and students and families prepare for a school day, potentially waiting at bus-stops. The decision to close school for the day or institute a two-hour delay start is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools.

**If school remains open, and you as a parent or guardian do not believe it is safe for your child to travel to school based on conditions in your area, please use your best judgment to determine what is safest for your child. Please notify the school if your child will not attend; absences will be excused.**

### Determining to close or delay the opening of school by two hours

#### Standard decision process

1. Assistant Superintendent gathers information, beginning as soon as accurate information is available. Consultation and assessment includes:
  - District transportation personnel
  - First Student Transportation
  - Alaska State Department of Transportation (DOT)
  - Alaska State Troopers (AST)
  - Central Emergency Services (CES)
  - Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
  - Homer Electric Association (HEA) and utility providers
  - Weather services
  - Onsite school district employees
2. The Assistant Superintendent contacts the Superintendent of Schools to update about specific conditions and to offer a recommendation for a two-hour delay start or school closure.
3. The Superintendent of Schools makes a final decision.
4. School principals are contacted with the decision and supporting information\*
  - Principal contacts school staff

#### **KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS**

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

- School may implement automated call system, social media post, or other type of contact message to parents if applicable

**5. KPBSD district office will communicate and post school delay or closure and subsequent updates to:**

- [KPBSD website](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us) home page: www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us
- Local media including: radio stations, television stations, newspapers
- [Facebook](#): Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (usually by 5:30 AM)
- [Twitter](#): @KPBSD
- KPBSD [Mobile App](#) push notification



\*KPBSD may be briefed with information that helps to determine that a two-hour delay start will result in school being in session for the day. At other times, the two-hour delay allows time to assess the evolving conditions, before making the decision to close school for the day. If the roads are impassable due to inclement weather, a two hour delay will give road crews additional time for sanding and plowing. Updates are posted as soon as decisions are made.

**How-to calculate a two-hour delay start time**



- Add two hours to normal school start time.
- Add two hours to normal bus pick-up time. Thus, students are picked-up two hours later than the normal scheduled bus pick-up time.
- KPBSD employees arrive two hours later than normal work-day morning schedule.
- Schools will dismiss at the normal time unless announced otherwise.

**Make-up Instruction Days**



If school is closed for the day, a make-up day must be scheduled. KPBSD does not build additional days into the annual calendar for potential inclement weather or school closures that may or may not occur.

- A make-up day is generally scheduled on a vacation day, or after the official school calendar ends in May. One day is built into the calendar—typically the third Friday in the last quarter—and is often used as the first option for a make-up day.
- Factors to consider when a make-up day is scheduled for one or more schools in KPBSD:
  - Coordinated bus transportation
  - Student nutrition services—breakfast and lunch programs
  - Staffing

**A few facts**

- State law mandates a school term of 180 days with up to ten of these days used for teacher in-service.
- Per state law, all students must attend school for the minimum of 170 student contact days.
- KPBSD teaching contract is 188 days (also includes orientation days and 7 mandated holidays.) Teacher in-service days are part of Professional Development and required by contract. Flexible work days are most often utilized at the front end of the school year (August) in preparation for the school year.



**Closing school for the day or instituting a two-hour delay start is a complex decision, with several factors involved. Every effort is made to keep school in session.**

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