



Virginia Community Unit School District No. 64

651 S. Morgan Street

Virginia, IL 62691

Ph: (217) 452-3085 Fax: (217) 452-3088 www.virginia64.com



Mekelle Neathery, Superintendent

Jeff Bourne, Elementary Principal

Jake Stewart, Jr.-Sr. High Principal

January 6, 2023

Dear Redbird Families:

As we begin the second semester of our school year, we wanted to send information regarding weather related processes that we utilize within Virginia CUSD 64. The determination to close school because of extreme weather is a matter that we take very seriously to balance the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. As a general rule, we will try our best to make a determination of what option we will implement by 5:30 a.m. Of course, depending upon the timing of weather we may make the decision earlier or slightly later than this established time. Parents will be notified via our School Messenger system. This will also be posted on our social media platforms as well as shared with local radio and television stations.

With regards to school closure due to inclement weather, Virginia CUSD 64 has three options that can be considered:

1. **Emergency Day** - This is commonly known as a "snow day". Each district can utilize up to five (5) emergency days each school year that are created within the annual calendar approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. If we utilize an emergency day, we will adjust our school calendar to utilize one of the designated emergency days in May listed on the school calendar as a student attendance day.
 2. **eLearning Day** - This option for continued learning may be used in the event of inclement weather. The expectation is that students complete learning tasks from their home via materials and resources provided via online platforms as communicated by the teacher. A maximum of five (5) eLearning days can be utilized throughout a school year with no more than two (2) consecutive days at a time. This counts as a student and staff attendance day, therefore an emergency day will not need to be utilized and added to the school calendar for an additional student attendance day.
 3. **Two Hour Delayed Start** - The two (2) hour late start option may be used when the early morning weather issues are forecast to clear to allow staff and students to travel to school safely. For example, a wind chill factor that will improve by waiting 2 hours.
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4. Emergency Bus Routes - In the event that we have routes that are not able to be safely navigated, we will utilize alternate routes that have been established in consultation with our bus drivers.

More information pertaining to eLearning, Two Hour Delayed Start, as well as the Emergency Bus Routes can be found on our website www.virginia64.com under the Resources section for our families or a copy can be requested from our offices.

We would ask that families work in partnership with Virginia CUSD 64 by reviewing the information that has been provided, ensure that your contact information is updated within Teacher Ease to assist with emergency communications, and develop a plan with your child for alternate days that might need to be utilized to balance the wellbeing and education of our students. We also ask that parents continue to send your child appropriately clothed to for colder temperatures, especially for our Prek-5th grade students who will continue to be outside for recess as the weather allows. If you are needing assistance with acquiring clothing to ensure your child is prepared for the colder weather, please contact our offices.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ensuring that we balance the wellbeing of our students as well as meeting their educational needs. If you have any further questions regarding this information, please contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Mekelle Neathery
Superintendent
