



# WINTER WEATHER FAQs

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## Q. How will we know if school is closed due to weather?

A. There are several ways to learn whether Willard has closed school.

1. Check the **district website** at [www.willardschools.net](http://www.willardschools.net). This is the most reliable source of information. Every effort is made to post closings by 5:30AM
2. Check our **district Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/willardschools](http://www.facebook.com/willardschools)) and **Twitter** ([www.twitter.com/willardschools](http://www.twitter.com/willardschools)) accounts.
3. Our district notification service sends an **automated email, text message, and/or phone call** to parents with their information set up in our Student Information System. If you do not already receive these messages contact the district office at 417-742-2584 to update your information.
4. We notify media outlets to add Willard schools to their list of closings. Keep in mind however that this can be the LEAST RELIABLE source of information. It's always best to confirm what you see or hear in the media.

## Q. What is the Late Start Schedule?

This Late Start Schedule allows traffic & plows to clear roads a little longer, allows students that drive to do so in full daylight and after rush hour, and allows buses extra time to get on the roads and start their routes.

**Grades 7-12 begin at approximately 9:25AM (2 hours later than normal)**  
**Grades PreK-6 begin at approximately 10:40AM (2 hours later than normal)**

Note: This is NEW for the 2020-21 school year, and will replace the previously used Late Start Schedule. Above times may vary by a few minutes building-to-building to accommodate bus schedules. **There will be no morning Tiger TALES on late start days. Staff will not be available to supervise students prior to 9:00AM (7-12) or 10:15AM (PreK-6), so please plan your drop off accordingly.**

## Q. What if school is in session but I don't think it's safe for my child to get to school?

A. As always, parents should use their best judgment in determining whether it is safe to allow their student(s) to travel. If parents don't believe that conditions are safe they may choose for their student to be counted as absent that day.

## Q. Will there still be Tiger TALES after school care available if school is dismissed early or if there is no school because of weather?

A. No. Due to lack of staffing, if school is dismissed early because of weather, afternoon Tiger TALES *will not be available*. If school is cancelled entirely because of weather, Willard Schools does not offer any child care.

## Q. How does the district decide whether to close school or not?

A. Student safety is always the district's primary concern. The district goes through several steps to determine if it is safe for kids to get to school. Those steps include:

1. When the threat of winter weather approaches administrators begin monitoring and communicating directly with the National Weather Service about the timing and extent of the incoming weather. Administrators also communicate with other area districts to learn what conditions are in their area and what may be heading toward the Willard District.
2. A team of district administrators drive throughout the entire district the night before and/or by 4 o'clock that morning to assess weather and road conditions. Sometimes conditions are different in one part of the district vs another. Administrators have to take into account conditions in all parts of the district.
3. All the information is analyzed, a decision is made and communicated by 5:30 AM if at all possible.