

## Weather Closing Policy

If school is closed due to weather, Parents/guardians will receive a text notification through the BrightArrow system.

### Information and Principles:

- We value holding school whenever possible without sacrificing the safety of our learners, our families, or our staff.
- We value that parents have told us that knowing about closings the night before rather than the morning of the closing is helpful whenever feasible.
- The ECC relies on the National Weather Service to determine weather predictions.
- Weather predictions do sometimes change so we can only make decisions based on the information we have at the time decisions need to be made. We recognize that sometimes with hindsight we will see we would have made a different decision than was made with the information available to us when the decision needed to be made.

### Guidelines for closing the ECC:

The ECC is likely to align with Minneapolis Public Schools in cases when there is a closure due to snow, but may not align when the closure is due to cold. The following points inform our decision:

#### Factors we consider when deciding whether to close due to snow:

- If Minneapolis Public Schools closes due to hazardous driving conditions, and therefore it is hazardous to travel in cars as well as in school busses, the ECC **will** be closed.
- Minneapolis Public Schools' policy states they "will close schools if road conditions are such that travel becomes too hazardous for buses and cars....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."
- If Minneapolis Public Schools closes early due to hazardous driving conditions developing during the day, the ECC **may** also close early accordingly.
  - If the school is closing early due to weather, we notify parents/guardians and they will need to arrange to pick up children.
  - In the very rare event that families are unable to get to the ECC due to extreme weather conditions, children will be supervised, fed and kept warm until parents/guardians are able to pick up their children.

#### Factors we consider when deciding whether to close due to cold:

- Because our children do not travel by school bus or wait at bus stops, the threshold for the ECC to close for cold may be different than MPS.
- The ECC **will** close if wind chills are expected to be -40° or lower or the air temperature to be -30°F or lower at 7:00 am on a given day.
- Minneapolis Public Schools MPS' policy states they 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.
- If wind chills are expected to drop to -40° later in the day, the ECC **will** close early accordingly.

**Late starts due to cold or snow:** While Minneapolis Public Schools cannot have a late start due to their busing schedule, the ECC is able to open late. Therefore, if MPS is closed but conditions are expected to improve such that it seems appropriate to open at 9:00 or 10:00, the ECC **may** choose to do so.