Inclement Weather Procedures/Plan 2024-2025

Following are M. Agnes Jones Elementary School procedures for inclement weather and how Atlanta Public Schools handle school cancellations.

**Overview**

Schools and facilities may close in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which present threats to the safety of students, staff, or school property. When severe weather creates hazardous conditions in Atlanta Public Schools, regular school scheduling may be altered or suspended. The primary consideration for making a decision to alter District operations is safety.

The superintendent makes the decision about school closing based on a cross-divisional and cross-agency effort,with information from public safety officials, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Atlanta Board of Education officials, and the state Department of Transportation. In addition, when inclement weather is an issue, members of the Atlanta Public Schools Facilities and Operations team head out as early as 3:30 or 4 a.m. to drive roads around the county and assess road conditions. The school system’s Transportation staff ensures that buses are operable. (Extreme cold can cause operational problems for diesel buses.) Facilities are checked in the early hours, and Atlanta Public Schools work with power providers, as needed. Local school principals gather information for the leadership team about specific school conditions.

It is more likely for school to be cancelled in the early morning — due to dangerous road conditions that formed overnight — than for school to let out early because bad weather is moving in.

If bad weather causes school to be cancelled or dismissed early, public announcements will be made on all APS social media outlets, on the school system’s website (www.atlanta.k12.ga.us), on Twitter Facebook, through Infinite Campus School Messenger calls and optional texts, and via metro-Atlanta radio and television stations. Full-day cancellations usually are announced by 6 a.m.

Should severe weather move into the area during the day, plans to cancel classes will be announced on metro-Atlanta radio and TV stations and on the school system's web site before school is dismissed.

The key factor in all decisions about whether or not to hold school is the safety of students and staff.

**Making Decisions**

The decision regarding school operations is made prior to 5:00 a.m. and sent through all communications channels. This information is normally broadcast on local radio and television stations by 6:15 a.m. The Communications department informs parents, students, employees and other stakeholders through a variety of channels including:

* Local news media
* District website
* Emails
* Calling Posts
* District Mobile App
* Social Media

Parents are encouraged to monitor local news reports or to contact the local school to find out whether the District has closed in the event of severe weather.

**Sudden Emergencies**

School officials meet to discuss sudden emergencies during the school day caused by storms or tornadoes with precision and concern for the safety of students and staff. However, it is most important that parents be aware that they are responsible for their children if dismissal from schools takes place.

Alternate arrangements must be made now by parents to house a child in case parents cannot be home.

**Emergencies At the School**

When severe weather watches are announced, immediate emergency procedures are taken for safety in schools or for dispatch of students to homes. School principals make key decisions about the safety of all students and personnel under their supervision.

The Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee makes the final decision whether or not to dismiss school. Atlanta Public School never dismisses students without this authorization.

**Learning Tools**

Atlanta Public Schools has developed a comprehensive plan to increase the time and opportunity for students to receive critical instruction lost during the days of inclement weather!!

The Georgia Standards of Excellence are preparing our students for the integration of 21st century skills and content mastery.  Atlanta Public Schools is dedicated to meeting this challenge through an increase of digital student projects that demonstrate mastery of the standards, extended learning opportunities beyond the four walls of the classroom and a focus on digital citizenship for each and every student. These standards support evidence-based instructional practices and strategies for differentiated, innovative, and effective teaching and learning based on the State-adopted standards in support of a balanced curriculum.

Students will be able to access digital resources from the Atlanta Public Schools home page of by utilizing their MyBackPack portal on their devices. MyBackPack is accessible from any device and provides students with access to digital learning tools, e-books, secure email, cloud storage and the complete Microsoft Office Suite.

Parents and students can access myBackpack by using the following steps.

1.   Through an Internet connection –navigate to [https://mybackpack.apsk12.org](https://mybackpack.apsk12.org/)

2.   Students should enter their APS student computer login id.

3.   The myBackPack screen will load with your unique username and password.

4. For questions or concerns please email:  mybackpack@apsk12.org

### **Instructional Expectations**

#### Student will access virtual learning assignments in Google Classroom for each class.

* Students can get to Google Classroom by logging into MyBackPack.
* Teachers will provide paper copies of the assignments as needed (e.g. Pre-K and Kindergarten).

**Assignments will be provided for all courses.**

* The assignments will be aligned to the standards that the students are currently learning.
* All assignments will be content-specific and relevant.
* All students are expected to complete all assignments. Teachers will enter grades for assignments in Infinite Campus.
* These assignments will be located in the Google Classroom under Inclement Weather.



#### **Each assignment will be the equivalent of one class period.**

* Assignments may involve reading, writing, conducting research, performing mini labs, completing practice problems, practicing skills, taking notes, answering questions, etc.



#### **Teachers will be available for direct student support through normal channels of communication that were established at the beginning of the year.** These may include, but are not limited to, the following email, Remind, Class Dojo, newsletter, Class Social Media pages, etc.



#### **Teachers will grade each assignment and enter the grade into Infinite Campus for grades 1 through 5.**

* Assignments will be named Virtual Learning Activity 1(VLA1) and Virtual Learning Activity 2 (VLA2) in the “Virtual Learning” category. The calculated grade weight for this category will be dependent upon the number of days for inclement weather.