



Keystone Oaks School District

November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Soon the winter season will be here and there will be times that a determination will need to be made to delay or close school. While I understand that the decision to open or close school in bad weather has a major effect on families, the top priority is always the safety of our students. Please understand that the decision to open or close school is based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- **Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the police;**
- **Amount of snow and ice accumulated;**
- **Temperature and wind chill;**
- **Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat); and**
- **Consultation with neighboring school districts.**

As Superintendent, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from our transportation providers and our local police departments. Every effort is made to make the decision as soon as possible.

Tune to **WPXI-TV**, **WTAE-TV**, and **KDKA-TV**, for up-to-date information on school closings. You can also check our District web site at www.kosd.org for information. *Do not call the school unless it is an emergency.*

In addition, the **SCHOOL MESSENGER** notification system will be utilized to generate a telephone message to your home, email message, or text message to you depending on your preference.

Keep in mind that, even if weather conditions worsen, the decision cannot be reversed in the morning without jeopardizing the safety of the students. Once the decision is made to open the schools, many parents rely on the decision and leave for work.

Although I will do my absolute best in this process, I know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend. Also, please discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions.

I hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process used to make the best possible decision.

Sincerely,

William P. Stropkaj

William P. Stropkaj, Ed.D.
Superintendent