

Gateway School District



2022-2023 Severe Weather-Related Delay or Flexible Instructional Day

Frequently Asked Questions

The Gateway School District's first priority is to keep our students and staff safe. Therefore, calling delays and flexible instruction days are taken very seriously. We will always work diligently to keep the safety of our students and staff in the forefront of all decisions.

We are also cognizant that when a Remote Learning, Flexible Instructional Day (FID), or a 2 hour delay occurs, we are impacting childcare plans, and the work-related commitments of our families. If a Remote Learning or FID is called, it will be referred to as a Remote Learning Day on the mass media outlets. Students will stay home and log into their Google Classroom for a day of instruction. Gateway School District will strive to make any decision to delay or implement a Remote Learning Day, (F.I.D.) a decision(s) that is based on the facts as we know them and when we know them.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions regarding weather related delays and/or school closings.

How are parents and residents alerted to a 2 hour delay or FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY?

- An automated call will occur if you have updated information in Skyword Student Information System
- KDKA, WTAE AND WPXI
- www.gatewayk12.org
- Facebook and Twitter

How is a 2 Hour Delay or Remote Learning Day, Flexible Instructional Day determined?

A variety of resources are used to gather information before making a decision. Local news stations, weather alerts from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the Pittsburgh Office of the National Weather Service (NOA) are monitored for rapidly changing weather patterns and storm predictions. Both, STA and Gateway Transportation Director and Director of Facilities work closely with the Monroeville Public Works Department, road crews and Police assist the District in determining road safety. Road safety includes snow and ice accumulation, washed out roads, fallen trees, downed power lines, traffic accidents, etc. Weather and road conditions are also checked the night previous for any anticipated adverse weather

conditions, starting at approximately 2:00 am. Communications between all parties occur throughout the night and are in full operation by 4:30 am. A final determination will be made by 5:30 am for dissemination to the community.

What factors are included in the decision?

The decision to delay or implement a Remote Learning Day (F.I.D.) is more than snowfall accumulation. Bus stop safety, walking routes, and ability to clear and maintain school parking lots and sidewalks, building heat and power, traffic accidents, ice, temperature, and other forms of precipitation are additional factors we consider.

What is the timeline for a delay or flexible instructional day?

We attempt to adhere to our guidelines; however, Western Pennsylvania weather is unpredictable and often erratic. The Gateway School District decision timeline is between 5:00 am and 5:30 am. If a decision to move from a 2 hour delay to a flexible instructional or remote learning day is needed, it would occur by 8:00 am.

If the decision to delay or use a flexible instructional day is made the evening prior, a notification will occur no later than 10:45 pm.

During a two-hour delay, what time does school start and when does the bus arrive?

We operate on a two-hour delay schedule. Adding two (2) hours to your regular bus stop and school start times will allow to plan accordingly.

School	Delayed Start Time
Gateway High School 7:00 am	9:00 am
Moss Side Middle School 8:00 am	10:00 am
All Elementary Schools (CSE, EV, RAM, UP) 9:00 am	11:00 am

Does the School District delay or use flexible instructional day for cold weather?

There is no set temperature that would cause a district to close. Several districts in our area consider cold weather delays with single-digit temperatures and a double-digit negative wind chill factor. As a general rule of thumb, a wind chill warning (15 degrees below or colder) would require a decision. Delaying school due to cold weather is also logical if there is a prediction that the temperature is expected to increase significantly by the time students are waiting at the bus stop.

Is breakfast served when school is delayed?

Breakfast would be offered at Gateway High School and Moss Side Middle School. Due to timing of lunch at the elementary schools during a delay, breakfast will not be offered.

How do students and parents know what to do on Flexible Instruction Day

Information regarding your child's Flexible Instruction Day will come from your child's Building Principal and or classroom teacher.

What if my student is transported to an out of district school or placement?

All Gateway School District transportation services will follow the decision of the Gateway School District.

What should I do if I know a student does not have adequate outerwear for the winter weather?

Please contact the counselor for the student's school or one of our designated social workers if you believe a student is in need of winter clothing.

Should inclement weather strike during the school day, what are the procedures for early dismissals during the school day?

It is very unlikely the district will dismiss students early. In our experience, it is safer to keep students in school until roads are passable rather than sending students home to the possibility of an empty house. This is especially a concern with our elementary students. Should we need to dismiss early, parents will be notified through all previously mentioned communication avenues.

We thank you for your continued support.