

2016-2017
EMERGENCY WEATHER BULLETIN
Vashon Island School District No. 402

During periods of extreme weather and/or power outages, radio/TV stations will report closures and changes of schedule. The latest information can be accessed at <https://www.flashalert.net> or by calling the VISD District Office at 206-463-2121 for a recorded message.

We monitor weather forecasts to make decisions about late starts and closures, and whenever possible we will make an early decision by 7:00 p.m. for the next morning. If snow is predicted, we will usually call for a 2.5 hour late start. Then, if conditions worsen overnight, we will communicate a closure decision prior to 6:00 a.m. The following are the options when it becomes necessary to close schools, change the starting time for the day or adjust bus routes.

1. **"Regular Schedule with Emergency Bus Routes"**. This announcement means schools are operating on schedule and that emergency bus routes are operating (see Emergency Bus Routes).
2. **"2 ½ Hours Late"**. This announcement indicates that school is open with schools and buses running two and one half (2 ½) hours later than the normal schedule, *including ECEAP preschool*. (Same as PDD late start day schedule.)

| <u>School</u> | <u>2 1/2 Hour Late Start Time</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Chautauqua Elementary School/ECAP Preschool | 11:30 |
| McMurray Middle School | 10:25 |
| Vashon Island High School | 10:25 |

Bus transportation, including emergency bus routes, will depend on the conditions. All day Kindergarten, All day Preschool and P.M. Preschool classes will be in session. A.M. Preschool will not be in session.

3. **"Schools Closed"**. This announcement means all schools will be closed for one day. All meetings, field trips, after school activities, etc., will be canceled for the day.

Early release if it begins snowing during a school day? If severe weather conditions develop during a school day, we will keep students at school until they can be picked up by parents. We will not put our students in danger by releasing them on buses to empty homes. However, in severe weather situations, we will notify parents to pick up students prior to regular dismissal. ***We can only release students to parents or to persons identified in your student release records on file in school offices. Please be sure that your student release records are up to date with the names of friends/relatives permitted to pick up your student.***

Please listen to the radio/television or check the VISD website (www.vashonsd.org) or FlashAlert.net for up-to-date information. Also, you may telephone the VISD District Office at 206-463-2121 or the bus garage at 463-2525 to hear a recorded message with the most recent late start or closure information. You can register at <https://www.flashalert.net> to receive text messages from FlashAlert.net when notice of late starts and school closure is announced.

When schools are closed, all activities (including Vashon Park District scheduled events) planned for public school buildings will be canceled.

**VISD will send late start and closure updates to all parent/guardian email addresses on file with the district.
Please make sure your school has your current email address!**

You may also signup for email notifications at <https://www.flashalert.net>

IN ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, PLEASE ADVISE STUDENTS TO STAND IN A VISIBLE LOCATION AS FAR AWAY FROM THE ROAD AS POSSIBLE. SLIPPERY SURFACES CREATE HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS FOR BUSES WHEN COMING TO A COMPLETE STOP.

When we lose power here in the district we continue to operate with emergency generators and passive light through the windows for the remainder of the day. During power outages our heating systems are inactive. However, we will have sufficient residual heat in the buildings to make it through a day. Bring a sweater!! We will operate transportation on a normal schedule unless it is unsafe to do so due to road conditions.

2.5 hour late start? Come to work at your regular time if you can safely do so. If your safety is a concern arrive as soon as you can. If you'll be late or absent from work, contact your supervisor.

No early release. If severe weather conditions develop during a school day, we will keep students at school until they can be picked up by parents. We will not put our students in danger by releasing them on buses to empty homes. However, in severe weather situations, we will notify parents to pick up students prior to regular dismissal. If it is the case that student numbers dwindle due to early pick up by parents, commuting personnel may be released early with supervisor approval.

The decision. I monitor forecasts and try to make the decision by 7:00 p.m. for the next morning. Usually I'll start with a 2.5 hour late start. Then, if conditions worsen over night, I'll make and communicate a closure decision prior to 6:00 a.m. You will be contacted through the phone tree at each decision point. If a 2.5 hour late start decision stands through the night you will not be contacted again in the morning.