



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

34 SIMSBURY ROAD
AVON, CONNECTICUT 06001
Telephone: (860) 404-4700
gmala@avon.k12.ct.us

Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 6, 2017

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

In response to a number of questions posed to me today, I wish to take this opportunity to share with you in greater detail how the decision is made to postpone, cancel or open school with normal hours during periods of inclement weather.

Let me begin by stating that the safety of students traveling (via bus or their own vehicles) and staff is the single greatest factor considered when making the decision to alter a school schedule.

My communications with the superintendents of neighboring districts begins at approximately 4:00 a.m. These contacts are followed by my participation in a conference call with the superintendents from the fourteen districts in the north central and north western section of our state. Also participating in the conference call is a contracted weather professional who has many years of experience advising school districts about the specifics associated with weather events.

Calls are also made to the Avon Police Department, the Avon Department of Public Works and the district's Director of Operations for reports regarding the conditions of the roads, sidewalks and school parking areas.

Before the final decision is made, communication is again exchanged with the contiguous school district superintendents with a final decision being achieved at approximately 4:45 a.m. The decision is then communicated via district based electronic systems and on all local television and radio stations.

All school delays will continue to be announced as two (2) hour delays. When such delays are in effect, classes for morning only pre-school students will be cancelled.

This 2 hour delay schedule continues to address a number of issues including but not limited to 1) the need to allow sufficient time for the Town of Avon Public Works to complete their work on local streets, 2) allow district maintenance and custodial staff to adequately prepare all school property due to the inclement weather, and 3) to resolve the frequent, observed confusion regarding bus times and school starting times when any other duration in delay is announced.

My hope is that any weather we experience during the remainder of this winter does not cause a need to significantly disrupt the normal, daily schedules of our schools.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to provide for the safety of students and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

As always, I thank you again for the privilege of serving you and your children and hope you enjoy your weekend.

I remain very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools Avon Public Schools
gmala@avon.k12.ct.us