

Dear School District 11 Families and Staff,

I want to assure you that the safety of our students, staff, and families is top of mind when we make inclement weather decisions. Sudden weather changes are part of what we expect in Colorado. With the District's one-to-one devices in place, we have an opportunity to enhance student learning even on days when schools and buildings must be closed.

Technology advances have provided us the opportunity to extend the classroom remotely. I believe in rigorous instruction, no matter what the weather decides to do in Colorado. Across the nation, students have experienced learning losses in recent years, and we must do everything possible to provide them with ways to extend their instruction. During inclement weather days, when it is not safe to travel to and from school, remote learning and working days will be the expectation for students and teachers. Staff who do not need to be in the office physically will also be expected to work remotely on these days. Each school will have a remote learning plan, which will be communicated from your student's school.

To help us ensure the safety of our students to the best of our abilities, School District 11 has appointed supervisory personnel to drive sections of the District during a storm. We assign the driving areas because, as we all know, the weather at Doherty High School can differ from the weather at Chipeta Elementary School or Mann Middle School.

The supervisory personnel report weather and road conditions, especially noting poor visibility, traction, hazardous street conditions, wind chill factors, and snow accumulation. I'm then briefed on the conditions. The employee reports are used in addition to the reports from the U.S. Weather Bureau and the Colorado Springs Street Division. After all the data is examined, a decision is made for either a delayed start, a remote learning day, or school as usual. All of this usually begins the night before a storm is predicted to hit and is accomplished by 5:30 a.m. at the latest so that we may you with the decision.

All D11 families and staff receive notification of the decision via email, text (if you've opted in to receive texts from the District), and app push notification on the [D11 Loop](#), as long as your contact information is correct and up-to-date in the PowerSchool student information system (or PeopleSoft system for employees). You can also check for delays/closures on the D11 website at www.d11.org. We also communicate the decision on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds, as well as with the local media.

Thank you for letting Colorado Springs School District 11 be a partner in your child's safety and learning.

Respectfully

Michael Gaal, Superintendent

