



Jefferson City Public Schools

INCLEMENT WEATHER 2-HOUR LATE START FAQ

Q: What time does my child's school start?

A: [Here's a link](#) to all of the schools' normal start times – so just add two hours to each of those. For example, JCHS/NCC/Simonsen normally start at 7:50am. On a 2-Hour Late Start day, those schools would begin at 9:50am.

Q: So if my child's school normally starts at 8:30 a.m., the schools' doors open at 8:00 a.m. for drop-off. Is that the same during this 2-hour delayed start – where doors, in this example, would open at 10:00 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. start?

A: Yes, doors to buildings will open 30 minutes before the 2-hour delayed start time – just like they open 30 minutes prior to your child's school's normal start time.

Q: Will early-morning YMCA or Boys & Girls Club care be available beginning at their regular time?

A: No, in the event of a 2-hour delayed start, the YMCA and/or Boys & Girls Club will not provide morning supervision.

Q: Will breakfast still be served at school? And what about lunch?

A: A light breakfast will be available to students when they arrive and lunch will also be served.

Q: What's the benefit of a 2-hour delayed start? Why not just call off school for the whole day?

A: We added the option of a 2-hour delayed start in the 2015-16 school year. It addresses our ultimate goal of having students learning in the classroom every day. This option allows us to keep students' safety as a top priority, while also having them attend school for a full day of instruction, per state guidelines. After testing roads within our district boundaries and talking to city and county road crews, district officials make this decision when they believe road conditions will greatly improve with the crews' additional time to treat said roads.

Q: What about staff? Does the 2-hour delay apply to them as well?

A: Yes, the 2-hour delayed start applies to JCPS staff members too. Staff should report to their building two hours later than they are usually expected. If a staff member or department is an exception to this rule, their individual supervisor will notify them of that.

Q: I don't know my child's bus' snow route. Where can I find it?

A: [Snow route information is here](#). Keep in mind that these route times are for a "normal" start time schedule. So, if we've implemented a 2-hour delayed start, you need to add two hours to these route times listed.

Q: Aren't snow days built into the district calendar? Why not just take one then?

A: No. Every day of school that's missed because of weather has to be made up (unless we miss so many that the state will forgive some, but that takes A LOT of days missed). We present those possible weather make-up days every year on the calendar so families can see what those might be, should the situation arise and we need to use one or more to get in the required 174 days of instruction.

Q: What time are snow day, delayed start, etc. decisions made?

A: The district officials that make the ultimate decisions amidst inclement weather make those decisions as soon as they can. That said, our mid-Missouri weather changes so often and inclement weather forecasts can be so difficult to accurately gauge, district officials often can't make the most accurate, informed decision until closer to school start time. We understand the inconvenience that snow days or delayed start days can create and we'll try our hardest to give families as much time to make alternative arrangements as possible.

Q: I don't like getting inclement weather notifications in a dozen different ways early in the morning. What can I do to change that?

A: We are looking into a way for parents to manage their contact information preferences within our mass notification system - but we don't have that feature in place yet as there's some vetting of that process we need to do. We do reach out to everyone with every tool we have with these inclement weather notifications, as we're trying to spread the word as quickly and efficiently as possible. That said, the District, as well as building principals, use that same notification system for other general reminders and notices - and that information may only be distributed by phone. So, if you were to choose to only be notified by text message, for example, you might not get certain information that's only sent out by call or email.