

## **Article 1 – SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES**

### **Section 1 School Calendar**

See appendix at the back of the Handbook.

### **Section 2 Daily Schedule**

See appendix at the back of the Handbook.

### **Section 3 Shortened Schedule**

See appendix at the back of the Handbook.

### **Section 4 Severe Weather and School Cancellations**

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations. The following radio and television news media will be utilized in inclement weather conditions: WJAG (AM 78), KEXL (FM 106.7), KNEN (FM 94.7), KUSO (FM 92.7), KCAU (Channel 9), & KTIV (Channel 4). We'll also attempt to make school closing information available on the web at [cancellations.com](http://cancellations.com).

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed. In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Some staff may be designated as being required to come to school even in the event of a school closing.

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closed during the day staff will be notified and parents will be notified via media broadcast. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. You should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their

decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Emergency Conditions. Pierce Public Schools has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response. School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning. In the event of a emergency exit alert or tornado warning, you should implement the school's established safety procedures.