

DELAY OF SCHOOL DUE TO WEATHER or OTHER EMERGENCY

The safe arrival of a child to school or home from school is paramount. Not only is a child's safety important, the safety of GISD staff and Boone Transportation, Inc. staff while traveling to and from the work place is just as important. District personnel and BTI personnel travel from various towns and cities to GISD for work. Transportation personnel and District personnel report to work hours before students arrive at bus stops so it is imperative to have in place a plan of action in the event of inclement weather or an emergency. Inclement weather or an emergency in only one area of the District can have a negative impact on the entire District requiring the delay or cancellation of school.

OVERNIGHT WEATHER OBSERVATION

- Current weather is monitored days before for potential weather related problems.
- In the event inclement weather has arrived in the overnight hours the following agencies are contacted to verify status of roadways: New Mexico State Police, Dona Ana Sheriff's Office and NMDOT
- BTI personnel and designated GISD personnel inspect roadways in areas of reported or suspected inclement weather.
- Building conditions are evaluated for safe occupancy.
- Information about road conditions and other hazards in surrounding areas, cities and towns is gathered for evaluation
- Information about surrounding area school closings is gathered and evaluated
- Information regarding forecasts and deteriorating or improving weather is gathered and evaluated
- BTI personnel will contact designated GISD personnel to report findings
- GISD Superintendent or designee will make the final decision as to:
 - Transport on normal schedule.
 - Delay two hours to assess situation.
 - If the decision is made to delay school starting by two hours, at the end of the two hour assessment a decision will be made to either 1) transport to school or 2) cancel school for the entire day. Another two hour assessment delay will not be initiated.
 - Cancel school for the entire day.
- The Anthony Gap creates hazards of its own due to its geographic location. Special attention is given to this area as the Anthony Gap is subject to closure at any time.

DURING THE SCHOOL DAY OBSERVATION

Weather conditions can deteriorate during the day while children are in class. Special consideration must be given to days when weather is expected to deteriorate while students are in class. As transportation personnel are not full time employees, not all school bus drivers remain at the transportation complex during the day. It can take several hours for drivers to report back to duty when it is necessary to initiate an early release. The following is a guideline used when an early release may be needed:

- Weather conditions are monitored by BTI and GISD personnel for possible deteriorating conditions
- The Anthony Gap creates hazards of its own due to its geographic location. Special attention is given to this area as the Anthony Gap is subject to closure at any time.
- If deteriorating conditions are expected, BTI school bus drivers are kept on a “ready status” which subjects them to be available to return to work ASAP.
- Before releasing elementary students early, the District should consider the possibility of parents not being at home for the earlier arrival. A form of notification and intentions to parents by the District may be necessary.
- Each school program is evaluated to see if PM programs will be brought to school or cancelled for the day.
- After School Programs and DASR are evaluated to see if they will be cancelled
- If the Anthony Gap is subject to or is expected to create a hazard, each program that has students transported across the gap will be evaluated for attendance or cancellation.
- The early release of students in one area has a “domino” effect on the release of subsequent schools and programs. To say that a “one solution fits all” is not possible. Therefore designated GISD personnel, BTI personnel, highway and roadway maintenance departments and emergency departments are monitored to decide on the appropriate action to be taken.

INCLEMENT WEATHER IN REGARDS TO ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY TRIPS

- Weather conditions are monitored for the area(s) that buses will travel. Should inclement weather be expected which will present unsafe travel, the GISD Designee will be notified and a decision will be made to continue or cancel the trip.
- If a group is on a scheduled trip and unsafe conditions arise during the trip, the group may need to delay travel until weather permits safe travel. This means that arrangements for overnight stay may be necessary and BTI will work with designated GISD personnel to make those arrangements.