



Reach Each Child

Pulaski County Public Schools
202 N. Washington Avenue, Pulaski, Virginia 24301

Office of the Superintendent

Emergency Closing of Schools 2008 – 09

At some time during the school year, it is likely that we will need to close schools, start school on a later schedule, or dismiss students early from school due to circumstances beyond our control. Typical reasons for changing the school schedule include inclement weather, excessive heat, or unexpected circumstances. In an effort to notify parents, guardians, and students in an effective and timely manner, we will contact the media listed below to announce closings or altered schedules for all schools or individual schools, depending on the circumstances.

Closings, delayed openings, and early dismissal decisions will be made as early as practical. If possible, altered schedule decisions will be made on the prior evening. Please listen to the media sources for announcements, or visit the Pulaski County Public Schools website at <http://www.pcva.us>.

Radio

WBLB, WPSK – Pulaski
WRAD, WRIQ, WNRV – Radford
WFNR, WBNK – Christiansburg
WMEV – Marion
WVTF, WUTV – Blacksburg

Television

WDBJ 7 – Roanoke
WSLS 10 – Roanoke
WJPR/WFXR 21/27 – Roanoke
WSET 13 – Lynchburg

Delayed Opening

Circumstances may warrant opening schools on a one or two-hour delayed schedule. In those circumstances, buses will run and schools will open either one or two hours later than normal.

Early Dismissal/Daytime Emergencies

Careful consideration will always be given prior to dismissing students early because of daycare issues and because of students going home to empty houses. When situations necessitate our doing so, however, students may be released prior to the typical closing time. Daytime emergency announcements will be made as soon as possible to local media and local major employers. Because of the quick response time needed in these types of situations, please listen to WPSK 107.1 FM for immediate information.

Altered Schedules for Excessive Heat

Excessive and prolonged exposure to heat can be a health risk. There is, however, a difference between being uncomfortable and being at risk for heat related illnesses. We will monitor the heat index as the primary measure and criterion for making school closing/early dismissal decisions. Heat index is a measure of the air temperature and the relative humidity. For example, when the air temperature is 90 degrees and the relative humidity is 60 percent, the heat index is 100, which is the temperature that the body feels.

Electronic Calling System

Pulaski County Public Schools will utilize a telephone/cellular and/or email calling system this school year to notify parents about school closings because of inclement weather, school emergencies, and facility issues (i.e., no water, no heat, or other similar problems). Your child will bring home information about how you can update your personnel information on our student database system.