

Inclement Weather Procedures

October 9, 2019

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Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Preparing World-Class Students
Through Everyday Excellence

Purpose

To explain the process of how Queen Anne's County Public Schools determines when to implement the following due to inclement weather:

- ▶ 90-Minute Delay
- ▶ Non-Scheduled Early Dismissal
- ▶ Closings



Objective

To educate the community on how Queen Anne's County Public Schools determines whether schools will be opening 90 minutes late, closing early, or closed for the day due to inclement weather.



Sources of Weather Information

- ▶ AccuWeather
- ▶ National Weather Service (Mount Holly)
- ▶ Local Media Weather Outlets (WBAL, WMAR, WJZ, & WBOC)
- ▶ National Media Weather Outlets (Weather Channel)
- ▶ Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- ▶ Weather Underground Website



Weather Forecast Models

- ▶ NAM (North American Mesoscale)
- ▶ GFS (Global Forecast System)
- ▶ RUC (Rapid Update Cycle)
- ▶ RAP (Rapid Refresh)
- ▶ ECMWF (European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts)

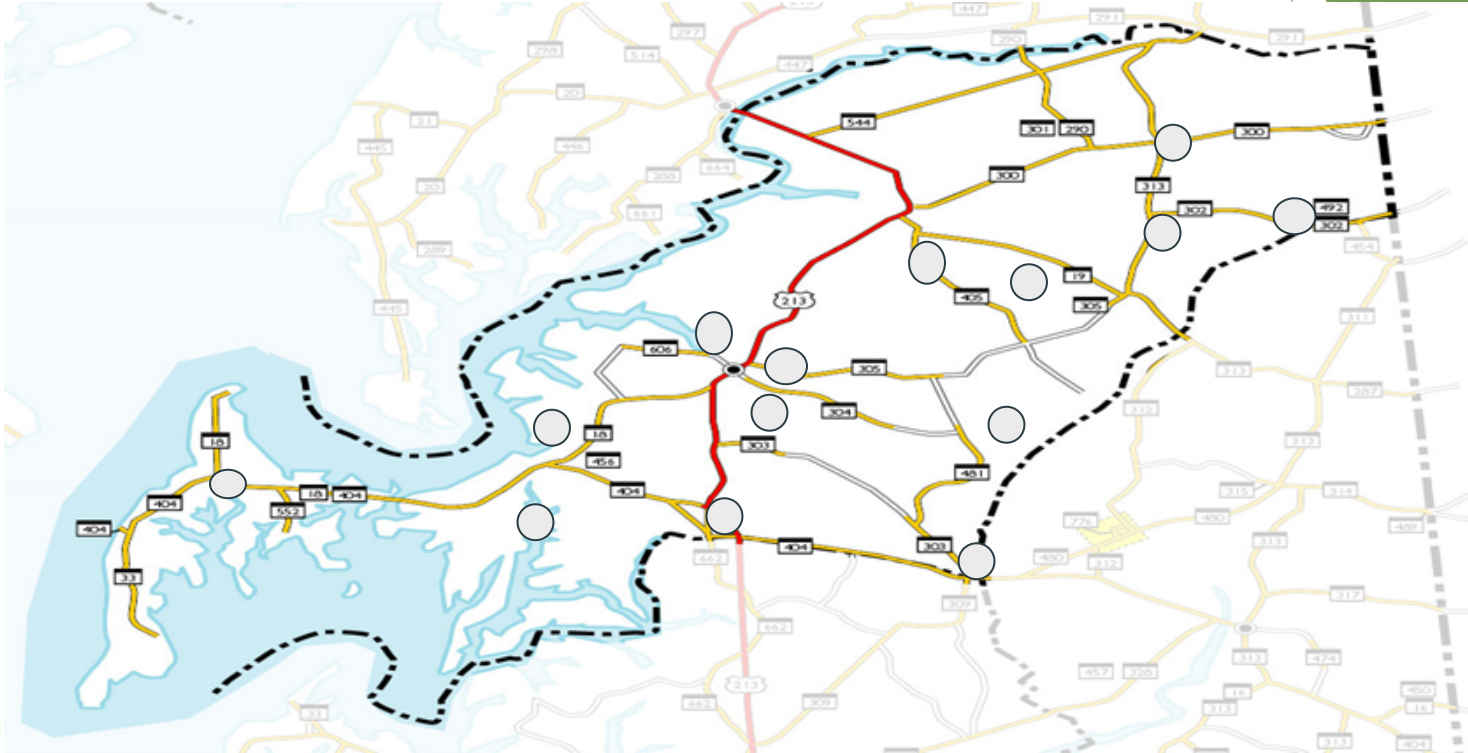


Information Obtained from Various Sources

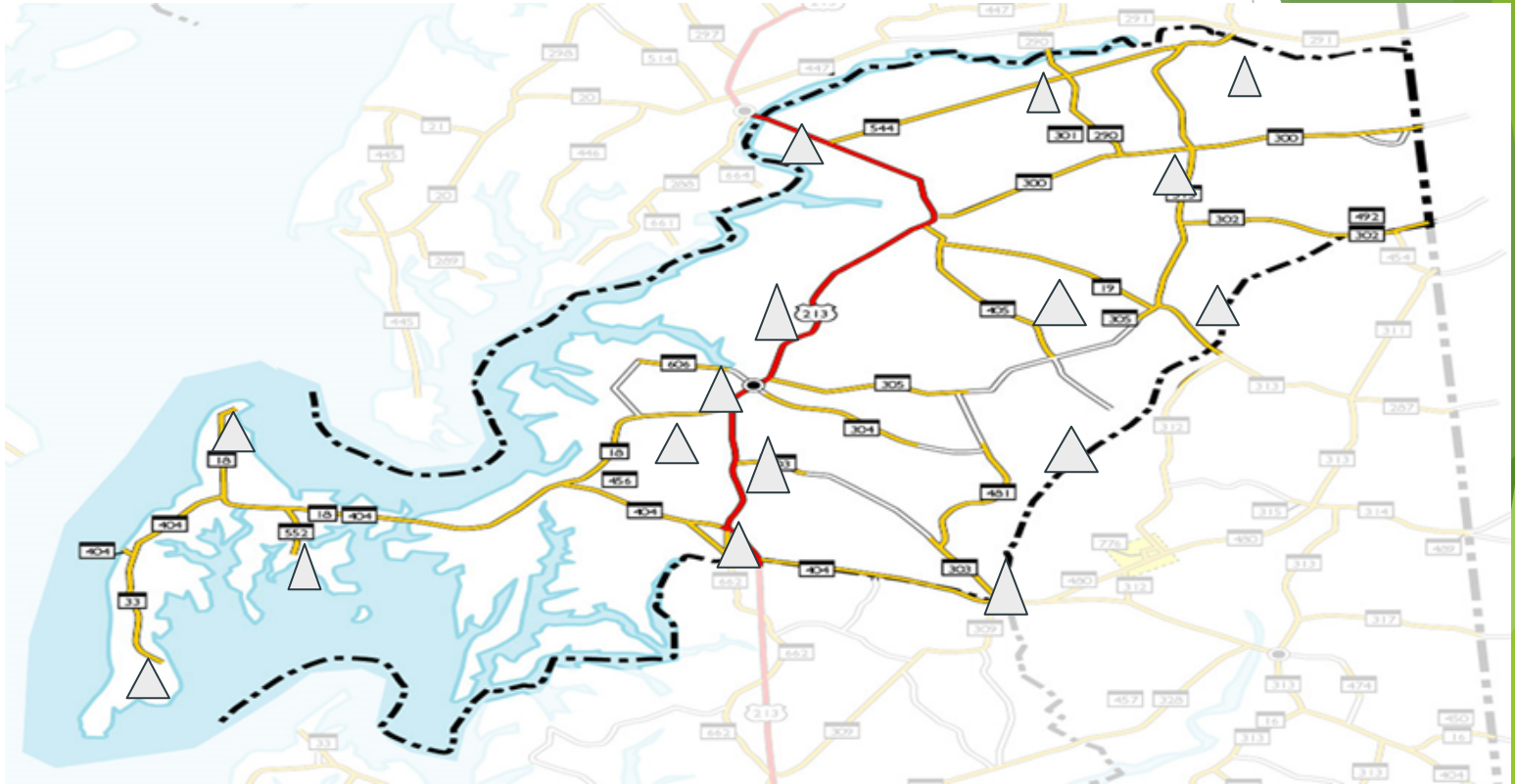
- ▶ Maryland State Police “Centreville Barrack”
- ▶ Queen Anne’s County Sheriff’s Office
- ▶ Queen Anne’s County Emergency Management Services
- ▶ Queen Anne’s County Public Works
- ▶ Queen Anne’s County Department of Parks
- ▶ Maryland State Highway Administration
- ▶ QACPS Spotters (Contracted and County Bus Drivers)
- ▶ SHA Traffic Cameras
- ▶ QACPS Exterior Cameras (Parking lots and Sidewalks)



Temperature and Visibility Readings



Weather Spotters (Bus Contractors & County Drivers)



Timeline for Delay or Closing

- ▶ 3:30AM - Process begins with the Transportation Department gathering information
- ▶ 4:40AM - Decision has to be made to either delay or close school
- ▶ 5:00AM - Notification of the decision to parents, guardians, students, & staff
- ▶ 6:00AM - First students begin to board buses on a regular school day
- ▶ 7:00AM - Decision needs to be made if schools will be closed or remain on delay
- ▶ 7:30AM - First students begin to board buses on a 90 Minute Delay
- ▶ 10:00AM - Decision needs to be made for early dismissal
- ▶ 11:30AM-11:45AM - Pre-k students leave CES, GES, KIES, & MES



Timeline for Delay or Closing

- ▶ 12:00PM-12:15PM - PM Pre-K students are beginning to be picked up for CES, GES, KIES & MES
- ▶ 1:00PM-1:15PM - Pre-K begins at CES, GES, KIES, & MES
- ▶ 2:30PM - Dismissal of KIHS, QACHS, MMS, SES, SMS, & STMS
- ▶ 3:20PM-3:45PM - Dismissal of BES, CES, CMS, CHES, GES, KES, KIES, & MES



Additional Bus Routes

- ▶ Anchor Points Academy
- ▶ Transporting students to KIHS & QACHS for CTE Classes
- ▶ Fire School for KIHS & QACHS students
- ▶ Special Needs Buses - Out of County
- ▶ 9th Grade KIHS Annex to KIHS Main Campus
- ▶ Athletic Events
- ▶ Field Trips
- ▶ Late Buses



How to Receive Notice of the Decision

- ▶ School Messenger (Phone, Text, or Email)
- ▶ QACPS Website
- ▶ QACPS Facebook Page
- ▶ QACTV
- ▶ Television Stations (Channel 2, 11, 13, 16, & 45)
- ▶ Radio Stations (WBAL, WCBM, WCTR, WNAV, WINX, WSCL, & WXCY)
- ▶ Code Blue
- ▶ Code Red



Why Schools Are Not Opened in Zones?

- ▶ 371.9 Square miles of land which stretches from the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware line
- ▶ Transport 7,716 students on 89 buses that navigate 11,474 miles
- ▶ 2 Tier Bus System
- ▶ Career & Technology Classes
- ▶ Additional buses need to be purchased and more drivers hired



Other Factors to Consider

- ▶ 466 high school students that drive to school everyday
- ▶ QAC Public Works, Centreville Public Works, & SHA ability to remove snow
- ▶ QAC Parks & Recreation ability to remove snow from QACPS parking lots and sidewalks
- ▶ What time are QAC Public Works, Centreville Public Works, QAC Parks & Recreation coming out to begin snow removal?
- ▶ Home and business owner removing snow from sidewalks



School Delay and Closing Committee

- ▶ Meets in May to discuss procedures and make changes if necessary
 - ▶ Members include: Parents, Contracted Bus Drivers, Principals, Board Member, MSP, QACSD, CPD, Supervisor of Transportation, & Chief Operating Officer
 - ▶ Topics Discussed: 1 Hour Delay, 90 Minute Delay, or 2 Hour Delay
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- ▶ 2018-2019 4 Closings/6 Delays
 - ▶ 2017-2018 7 Closings/10 Delays/1 Early Dismissal
 - ▶ 2016-2017 2 Closings/10 Delays
 - ▶ 2015-2016 6 Closings/5 Delays/1 Early Dismissal
 - ▶ 2014-2015 9 Closings/6 Delays/1 Early Dismissal
 - ▶ 2013-2014 12 Closings/10 Delays
 - ▶ 2012-2013 6 Closings/10 Delays/1 Early Dismissal
 - ▶ 2011-2012 1 Closing/12 Delays
 - ▶ 2010-2011 5 Closings/10 Delays/3 Early Dismissals
 - ▶ 2009-2010 7 Closings/11 Delays/1 Early Dismissal



Conclusion

While making a decision to have a 90-minute delayed opening, dismissing early, or closing for the day due to inclement weather is never easy, the QACPS Transportation Department analyzes the conditions to make the most appropriate decision based on the information that is available at the time to ensure the safety of students and staff.



Questions and Answers



Contact Information

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