

**Weather related guidelines**  
**McKenzie County Public School District #1**  
**Harlow's School Bus Service**

- North Dakota can have challenging winter weather and may occur at various levels from October to April in some cases. The school district is prepared and ready to operate bus transportation during winter weather conditions and may need to do so frequently depending on the severity of the winter season. Safety is always the priority, however, travel in winter conditions is part of our operations and we do so with many safety measures in place to ensure your student's safety in riding our buses.
- School buses are relatively safe vehicles of which to travel in winter conditions. Harlow's bus drivers are trained to handle such situations and families are encouraged to utilize bus transportation during winter weather conditions.
- If you do not believe it is in your best interest to send your child on the bus during a winter weather situation; you have the discretion to keep your child or to transport them to school yourself. Use of bus transportation during winter weather is not mandated, however, the impact on attendance in school will vary depending on the conditions.
- If your bus is running and you choose not to send your child due to weather conditions; the school building may count your child absent from school. If the bus is NOT running that day due to weather conditions; the school building will generally count this as a special circumstances' absence. However, the expectation is to hopefully find a way for your child to come to school as soon as the weather conditions allow for safe travels. Weather can change quickly and allow for very safe travels by later morning or early afternoon; we ask you attempt to send your child when the conditions are favorable and bus transportation will likely be running after school on the days of which the weather clears during the day. Attendance in school is very important and we ask for your cooperation to ensure it as much as possible, even during winter weather days, and as feasible.
- The school district attempts to notify parents of weather related late starts or closures by 6:15 AM using the alert system. These notices are also posted on the webpage, phone message system, and local television weather channels. Changes to specific routes can occur even if school is on time; we have a very large geographic school district and weather can vary greatly from one area to another. Route changes due to weather will be communicated from Harlow's School Bus Service and as timely as possible. If in doubt, you can contact the Harlow's School Bus Service, however, please be patient as phone calls are frequent on these mornings. The school buildings will work with parents on these days and expect delays for bus students on various routes. Bus Bulletin will be used by Harlow's School Bus Service to communicate changes in a timely manner.
- The school district offers program that are available and outlined on the website allowing families to see your bus in progress and gauge when it may be arriving at your stop. We encourage you to register and use this tool whenever possible as an added resource in communicating bus times, especially when delays are possible with weather conditions.
- If the school district has implemented a late start; times of the bus pick-ups to accommodate the late start of school are available on the website. Please use the bus stop locator app on the website to access this information and receive an approximate time on the late-start days; you may also use the software available to see the bus and its current

location. It is impossible to provide completely accurate information on the new stop times as weather will often affect the timing of each route, however, the times are approximations will help you to see where the bus is located and to gauge the correct timing.

- In the event of an early dismissal for weather; the time of dismissal will indicate when a student can be picked up at any school building. For bus students; the time will indicate the pick-up time at the elementary building and the actual pick-up time will be adjusted for each school building stop. This means the middle school will be leaving approximately 15 minutes after the elementary departure and the high school 15 minutes after the middle school departure. Please consider this when expecting your student home on an early dismissal day.
- No travel advisories can be implemented and lifted quickly – it is possible our buses will be traveling during a no travel advisory depending on when the advisory was implemented. We work very closely with the city and county to ensure a decision to travel is based on actual road conditions in our area. Safety is our biggest concern, however, the actual road conditions in some areas is often not consistent with the travel advisories depending on when the advisories were put into place.
- Safety is our biggest concern, however, we need to consider the make-up of lost time due to weather decisions and that time may impact a scheduled school vacation or the end of the school year. If there are frequent delays or cancellations during a winter season, please be prepared to consider make-up time at a later date. We attempt to use as little time as possible to avoid disruption of family plans for scheduled school vacations that need to be used for weather make-up days; however, it is often inevitable with severe weather situations that may occur during a typical winter weather season.