



SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

Ensuring Student Success

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Edward F. Rafferty
Superintendent of Schools

October 14, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I would like to remind all of you to consider now, what kind of alternative arrangements need to be made for your children should our school be closed for inclement weather or other related emergencies. Though District 54 makes every effort to keep our schools open and operational, circumstances beyond our control oftentimes dictate school closings. In your mind, you should be prepared to answer the following questions:

- 1. If school should be closed tomorrow for inclement weather or an emergency, who would care for and supervise my child(ren)?**
- 2. If school was to close early today (due to broken water pipes, power failure, heating problems, accumulating snowfall, etc.), who would be able to take care of my child(ren) for the remainder of the day?**

Most importantly, remember that you, the parent or guardian, ultimately make the decision whether to send your child to school. If you do decide to keep your child home on a day in which the weather is extremely inclement, the absence will be considered "excused". With that designation, the absence will not count against any attendance incentive program and your child will be given every opportunity to make up missed work.

Again, I would urge you to initiate a plan of action now, so that you are not placed in a position of having no emergency child care arrangements made should the time arise. In addition, please be sure to discuss these arrangements with your children so that they are aware of your plan. Finally, please update your emergency contact information with your child's school in the event we need to contact you during the school day.

As additional assistance, please utilize the information included with this letter entitled "Emergency School Closing Sources of information" as a handy reference for emergency school closings. In advance and as always, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Ed Rafferty
Superintendent of Schools

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- **Email:** All District 54 parents/guardians who have provided their child's school with an email address will be sent an email when school is closed.
- **AlertNow:** Each student's primary phone number will be called using our AlertNow rapid notification system.
- **District 54 website:** <http://sd54.org>
- **Emergency Closing websites:** www.cancellations.com or www.emergencyclosings.com
- **Radio Stations:** WGN (720-AM) or WBBM (780-AM)
- **Television Stations:** CBS Channel 2, NBC Channel 5, ABC Channel 7, WGN Morning News Channel 9, Fox Channel 32, CLTV (cable channels vary)
- **Emergency Closing Center Hotline** 1-847-238-1234, enter 847-357-5000 and you will be told if our district has made the decision to close schools.
- **District 54 Facebook:** www.facebook.com/D54schools

Parents are asked to please not call their local school or the District 54 administrative offices for information on school closings. Switchboards must remain open for emergency purposes.