Dear Parents and Guardians:

The winter season is upon us and our top priority is the safety of our students. Our district staff understands that our decision to open, delay or close schools in bad weather has a major effect on families. We also understand that our students are best when they are in school.

**HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?**

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the police. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. Also, we must consider that some high schools students drive to school.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- Whether precipitation is continuing and transportation is unsafe.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- Parking lot conditions. Administrators talk to maintenance and custodial staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- Temperature and wind chill factor. Please remember that some of our students walk to school and some must wait outside for the bus.
- Weather predictions. Weather predictions are not always accurate but most times is the means for making a decision to have a delayed opening or closing of schools.
- A collaboration among the school districts in the surrounding area and across Long Island as well as New York State.

**WHO MAKES THE DECISION?**

As superintendent of schools, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from the Director of Facilities and the Office of Transportation.

**HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?**

Tune to local TV and radio stations (News 12) for up-to-date information on school closings. We will send connected calls and emails to our families and community. You can also check our district website ([www.westburyschools.org](http://www.westburyschools.org)) for information. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency.

**WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?**

The decision will be made the day prior to the inclement weather or by 5:30 am or earlier so we can notify radio and TV stations and send communications and post the decision on our website. Waiting longer to announce a closing, may result in an impact on parents leaving for work and/or leaving their children unsupervised.
WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Keep in mind that, if weather conditions worsen, we will monitor the roads and conditions and ensure that we make a decision to cancel afterschool activities or have an early dismissal. In either case, families will be notified through our communication systems and the information will be posted on our website.

Once we make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses.

Although the staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. The District must make one decision that is the best for all students of the district. This decision may not fit with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your child. You are always the best judge of your child's health and safety.

Please discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen. We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process that our district staff uses to make the best possible decision for all in our district.

Sincerely,

Eudes S. Budhai
Superintendent of Schools