

Benton Community School District School Delays and Cancellation Information

As early as possible weather and road condition information is gathered from various sources as well as personal inspection by school personnel. The safety of our students and employees is the overriding, deciding factor when canceling or delaying school. Superintendents make weather-related decisions, but the parent/guardian may decide whether travel is safe for their child to attend on a particular day.

Benton Community is a school district covering 333 square miles one of the largest geographic school districts in Iowa. It is important to understand that at times road conditions will vary from one location to another within the district. Many of our families live on secondary roads which are different from city streets and highways. Several factors are evaluated in determining whether school will be delayed or canceled due to the weather.

Please check the following for delays or cancellations:

1. SchoolMessenger

This year we are using a new alert and messaging system called SchoolMessenger. [SchoolMessenger](#) is an automated online system that many schools currently use to deploy alerts, messages, emergencies, news, and other information. SchoolMessenger synchronizes with our student data management system called PowerSchool.

SchoolMessenger will send phone calls or leave voice messages and also send text messages to your phone numbers (cell, home, work) as well as written messages to your email addresses. It will also post the same message to our school FaceBook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BentonCSD/>

If school or activities are delayed, canceled, or changed, we will send the message via a phone call, text message, and email message. If at all possible, school delays will deploy at 5:30 a.m.

We may also need to send messages during the school day if school is going to be dismissed early due to weather or road conditions. Likewise, if we are canceling sports or activities, we will send out a message during the day as quickly as possible.

When you receive a message, text, or phone call from SchoolMessenger, it will show that it is coming from Benton Community. Please do NOT call the school offices. Please listen to the message, read your email, and/or read the text message. Our school offices become inundated with phone calls and in the event of an emergency or weather-related situation whereby the school will be let out early or delayed, we are unable to attend to our students and transportation department if we receive numerous phone calls. Thank you.

2. Bobcat Voicelink:

This resource is used as the second notification to the school community. The Bobcat Voicelink can be accessed by calling **830-2164** or **515-830-2164** (depending on location).

3. Radio and Television

The school district will contact the following radio and television stations in the event of a school delay, early-out, dismissal or other weather/road related circumstances. We do not control whether the station broadcasts the announcement.

Radio Contacts:

WMT (600 AM), KCKK (88.3 FM), KHAK (98.1 FM)

Television Contacts:

KGAN (Channel 2)

KWWL (Channel 7)

KCRG (Channel 9)

School Delays, cancellations, changes:

- Answer your phone when a call comes from the School / SchoolMessenger or check your phone for a voicemail or text message, check your email for a message
- Check the radio and television stations
- Call Bobcat Link if needed
- Follow your building school time schedule.
 - Example: 2-hour delay – If school is delayed two hours and your bus normally comes at 7:15 a.m. on this day the bus will arrive at 9:15 a.m.
 - Benton Four-Year Old Preschool schedule will be as follows with a 2-hour delay:
 - AM Session – 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.; PM Session – 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

School Early Out:

- Answer your phone when a call comes from the School / SchoolMessenger or check your phone for a voicemail or text message, check your email for a message
- Call Bobcat Link if needed
- Benton Four-Year Old Preschool PM session will not meet if it is an early-out for weather purposes.

Your patience will be appreciated as our bus drivers will use extreme caution when road conditions are poor which means students may arrive home later than normal.