



## The Public Schools of Brookline

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**Andrew J. Bott**  
Superintendent

December 3, 2018

Dear Families,

With the cold winter months already upon us, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the steps we will take to inform you of any weather-related school cancellations or delayed openings, and to provide you with some context as to how the decision to close school is made in the event of a winter storm.

When bad weather is forecast, we work closely with Brookline's public works and public safety officials to determine whether or not a school cancellation or delay is warranted. Working together, we carefully monitor weather forecasts relying on information from the National Weather Service. If the size and strength of the storm are predicted with a high degree of certainty, then we will make the decision to close school by 8:00pm on the evening before a school day. If the weather forecast is less certain, then we wait and make a decision (if there is one) no later than 5:30am.

Following the end of a winter storm, the Brookline Department of Public Works (DPW) starts to work immediately to make roads safe and accessible across town. In addition to plowing roads, we rely on the DPW to clear snow from school parking lots and sidewalks around our schools so that teachers can park and students can safely get to school. Depending on when the storm ends, sometimes this storm clean-up can continue into a second day causing school to be closed for an additional day so that DPW crews can work safely and unimpeded. The Town might also declare a parking ban, which affects our decision of whether or not to close school.

We will only contact you if a decision has been made to close school or delay the opening of school. Once that decision is made, we notify our media partners, post the information on our website, post a message on our Twitter and Facebook accounts, and send the notification directly to our families and staff via automated phone calls and emails. Below please find links to these sources:

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|-------------------|--|
| <b>Website</b>    | <a href="http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us">www.brookline.k12.ma.us</a>                                 |
| <b>Twitter</b>    | @BrooklinePublic   |
| <b>Facebook</b>   | <a href="http://www.facebook.com/BrooklinePublicSchools">www.facebook.com/BrooklinePublicSchools</a> |
| <b>Radio</b>      | WBZ (1030 AM)  |
| <b>Television</b> | WBZ (Channel 4) <a href="http://www.wbz.com">www.wbz.com</a>   |
|                   | WCVB (Channel 5) <a href="http://www.wcvb.com">www.wcvb.com</a>                                      |
|                   | WHDH (Channel 7) <a href="http://www.whdh.com">www.whdh.com</a>                                      |
|                   | WBTS (Channel 10) <a href="http://www.nbcboston.com">www.nbcboston.com</a>                           |
|                   | WFXT (Channel 25) <a href="http://www.boston25news.com">www.boston25news.com</a>                     |
|                   | New England Cable News <a href="http://www.necn.com">www.necn.com</a>                                |

Information about a delayed opening will be shared in the same manner as a cancellation. Should the opening of school be delayed, students will be expected to arrive at school or at their bus stop one or two hours after their regularly scheduled time, depending upon the length of the announced delay. Our bus company and crossing guards will know of the delay and will rearrange their schedules accordingly. High School students should refer to page 51 of the [BHS Playbook](#) for the schedule of classes in the event of a delayed opening.

You might also consider joining *Alert Brookline* to receive important notifications from the Town of Brookline regarding emergency situations that could impact Brookline residents:  
<https://brookline.bbcportal.com/>

As always, our priorities are to ensure the safety of students and staff and to share information regarding cancellations or delayed openings with you in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew J. Bott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew J. Bott  
Superintendent