

**Lee's Summit sent FOX4 the following information it's shared with parents about the late start change:**

"Starting this school year, LSR7 has the option to consider two-hour delayed starts on inclement weather and wind chill days.

Last year, 10 inclement weather days prompted LSR7 to cancel school due to snow, ice and/or cold temperatures. Upon reflection, we believe a few of these missed days last year could have benefited from a "later start" day because of the freezing temperatures in the early mornings.

A two-hour delayed start this year would allow us to preserve time LSR7 students spend in the classroom by simply starting two hours later than a regular school day.

The two-hour delayed start will be used for days when additional time is needed to allow temperatures to increase and/or time to treat roads.

Here's what you need to know about start times and transportation on two-hour delayed start days.

**Bus Riders:** Buses will pick up students two hours later than the regular pickup times.

**Car riders:** May be dropped off in accordance with school procedures two-hours later.

**Before and After School Services:** Will provide care from 7:00 am until school start time; only for students enrolled and a nominal fee will apply. No Summit Rise on Wednesday two-hour delayed start days.

This link on our website provides additional detail on specific two-hour delay start times.

As the time of year for inclement weather approaches, it is important to provide our staff and families with several ways to stay informed on school cancellations. LSR7 uses SchoolMessenger to send phone calls, texts and emails to each staff member and family with notice of weather-related cancellations. We will also use our website, district mobile app, local television stations and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to inform our staff and families of weather-related cancellations. We will provide detailed information in these communications that specifically states if it's a cancellation or a delayed start day.

One of the resources we use to determine when to cancel school due to inclement weather is the Child Care Weather Watch grid provided by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services with the Wind-Chill and Heat Index information from the National Weather Service. This is a guide that we will use to determine if we should cancel school or initiate a two-hour delayed start.

We know that the weather in our Kansas City region changes rapidly and we use our best judgment based on guidelines and forecasts for our decisions regarding weather-related cancellations. We also might consider input from our neighboring school districts, our

Transportation team and emergency management officials. We are always considering the safety of our staff and families when making these decisions.

Lastly, as we build the school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, please know we are working through new legislation and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in relation to inclement weather make up days and hours. There is new legislation that provides guidance on making up hours versus days. As we work through these options with DESE and the LSR7 Calendar Committee, we will provide updated and timely information.

We hope this additional option of a two-hour delayed start will be helpful for our families. We certainly want to be mindful of the weather conditions while also providing an option for continuing our school day if possible. Thank you for always being a partner in contributing to the well-being and safety of our students."