

Dear Fall River Public School Students, Parents, and Staff,

The winter season is upon us! With the safety of the children of Fall River being my primary concern, I write to fully inform everyone as to how school will be canceled. When weather experts forecast a significant snow storm for our area I will work in partnership with the Mayor's Office, Director of Public Works Ken Pacheco, Deputy Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management Richard Aguiar, and Police Chief John Souza to cancel school.

The decision to cancel school will be based on careful analysis of available information on potential hazardous road conditions, amount of snow and ice accumulation, temperature and wind factors, weather predictions, parking lot & parking ban conditions, and communication with city departments.

It is my goal to provide families adequate time to arrange for childcare and when possible we will make the decision to cancel by 11:00 pm the evening prior and no later than 5:30 am the morning of school. When a decision is made to cancel school, a public announcement will be shared with the media (television and radio) for immediate distribution and a message will go out to families via our telephone notification system. Information will also be available on our website at [www.fallriverschools.org](http://www.fallriverschools.org).

Despite well-intentioned plans and judgments, as parents we know there can be days during the winter season when we are faced with a decision as to whether or not to send our child to school. On these days, I invite you to assess your particular circumstance or location and overrule my judgment if that is the right decision for your child. Even though I live in the city and walk the sidewalks, I do not know the specific conditions on each street. It is your prerogative to keep your child out of school if you believe it is unsafe for your child to travel to or from school during inclement weather.

Thank you all for your cooperation as we continue to work together for the safety and well-being of our students and staff during the winter season.

Meg Mayo-Brown