

SOAR ACADEMY INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

OVERVIEW OF SOAR ACADEMY INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

From time to time throughout the school year, weather may force a change in the school's normal operating routines.

We will make every effort to adhere to the established school calendar, bell schedules, and bus routes. However, there may be times when weather conditions make the usual routines unsafe. If inclement weather makes a schedule change necessary, the decision will be communicated through the following methods:

- We follow the same plan as Tacoma Public Schools; if they close, we close
- Our Facebook page
- Our website: www.soaracademies.org
- The Rained Out app used for school bus riders
- Posts on Flashalert.net with school closure information for Tacoma Public Schools
- Targeted phone calls to parents who have requested these or with limited access to internet notification

We know that changes in the schedule are difficult for families. We do everything in our control to keep our doors open. When we must make a schedule change due to weather, we will do everything in our control to provide accurate and timely information. **The safety of your children is our primary concern.**

OPTIONS FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Whenever possible, decisions regarding school delays or closures are made by 5 a.m. Options for schedule changes include:

- Full-day school cancellation/closing: Students should not report to school. No services will be provided.
- Early dismissal: If the decision is made to dismiss schools early, the SOAR team will notify parents or guardians of the early release using email communication, social media and phone calls.

- Delayed school opening with regular bus routes: Two-hour late start with buses operating on regular routes. **No door-to-door transportation service is available** on delayed start days. (For example, if your student has a scheduled bus pick-up time of 7 a.m., you can expect the bus to arrive at approximately 9 a.m.). **There are no early staff available at school to receive children. The office opens two hours late as well for everyone's safety.**
- Delayed school opening with snow route service: Two-hour late start with buses operating on snow routes*. **No door-to-door transportation service. There are no early staff available at school to receive children. The office opens two hours late as well for everyone's safety.**

*When buses operate on snow routes, each bus riding family will be contacted with exact details regarding pick-up times and locations.

FAMILY PREPARATION FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER:

It is the responsibility of each family to have an inclement weather plan in place that can be put into action on short notice. We ask that you make sure your children have an alternate place to stay if you must be at work on a day when school has been delayed or cancelled.

Please ensure that a neighbor, family member or center is able to care for or receive students, and please instruct students to report directly home or to their established care center immediately on arrival in the evening.

If you need help create an inclement weather plan for your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to us! We are here to help.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION:

- Students should allow extra time to get to their school or bus stop in the morning. Arrival at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled pickup up time is recommended.
- Students should be dressed properly for the weather.
 - Bright clothing will make students more visible for bus drivers and other motorists, especially in the early morning and late evening.
 - Warm clothing is also recommended as transportation delays may occur