

Giant Steps Illinois, Inc.
WEATHER RELATED CLOSURE POLICY
POLICY STATEMENT NUMBER P.5.140

At Giant Steps, the safety and well-being of our students/participants and staff are our top priorities. This policy outlines the conditions under which the organization may be closed or adjusted due to extreme weather.

1. Temperature-Related Closures

Giant Steps may be closed or delayed when:

- The **actual air temperature** is **below 0°F**; and/or
- The **wind chill** is forecasted to reach **-40°F or lower** for a sustained period during program hours or student/participant travel times.

2. Ice and Road Conditions

Giant Steps may be closed, delayed, or dismissed early if:

- **Icy or hazardous road conditions** create unsafe travel for buses, staff, and families.
- Local or state transportation or emergency authorities advise against travel.
- Our transportation provider or district partners identify unsafe routes or recommend closure.

3. Decision Process

The decision to close, delay, or dismiss early due to weather will be based on:

- Local and regional weather forecasts
- Input from transportation services and school district partners
- Road condition assessments
- Recommendations from local law enforcement and emergency management agencies

4. Communication

Closure or delay announcements will be communicated as early as possible through:

- Email and text alerts
- School website and social media
- Local news outlets

Whenever possible, decisions will be made and communicated by 6:00am.

5. Remote Learning Option

If applicable, remote learning may be implemented for the day school during closures to ensure instructional continuity. Details will be communicated on a case-by-case basis.

6. Canopy Shuttle

The Caravan transportation service will be canceled if:

- The temperature is **0 degrees or colder** during the scheduled Caravan travel time
- Unsafe road conditions
- Additional severe weather-related warnings are issued for the area

We will carefully monitor weather advisories that may impact traveling between locations.

If the Caravan's daily transportation service is changed due to weather conditions, an email will be sent to parents and staff informing them of any changes in our Caravan services.

Policy approved – 5/1/2025

Policy last updated – 5/1/2025