



# Melba School District #136

P.O. Box 185, 520 Broadway – Melba, Id. 83641- Phone 208-495-1141

January, 2017

Re: Winter Weather

## Winter Weather Procedures

The Melba School District believes that education is important and every missed day of school represents lost learning opportunities. However, our primary concern at the Melba School District is for the safety of all our students. If students cannot safely travel to school, or if schools are not able to operate safely because of dangerous weather conditions, school may be cancelled.

We will not cancel school on days with normal wintery conditions. Light snowfall, cold mornings or areas of ice are not sufficiently dangerous to force the closure of schools. With proper precautions including appropriate clothing, road deicing, and careful driving, students can travel to and from school safely.

The Melba School District covers a large geographical area, taking in parts of three counties: Ada, Canyon, and Owyhee Counties. Because we cover such a large area, conditions vary throughout the district. Roads may be closed in one county and open in the other or conditions may be extremely dangerous in one area, while perfectly safe everywhere else.

If parents believe it is too dangerous for their children to travel to school, they have the option to keep their children home. If school is cancelled, it will be cancelled for the entire District. Parents that choose to keep their children home will be excused from school that day. We do ask that you please call the school and let them know you are keeping your children home. Elementary 495-2508 Jr. / Sr. High School 495-2221

The most frequent dangerous weather conditions facing Melba schools are:

**SNOW:** The district travels up hills and on lots of back roads, during heavy snowfall these areas can make traveling by vehicle dangerous. Historically, most snowfall only results in snow packed roads and this would not result in school closures. Wind, road closures, and poor travel may result in school closure.

**COLD:** Frigid temperatures are more serious than snow when making school closure decisions. On bitterly cold days, our concern is for students walking to school. Extremely cold weather also impairs our ability to get busses running, which causes delays in pickup routes, delays which are much more dangerous to riders because of the low temperatures.



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**ICE:** Ice is our most dangerous winter weather condition. Freezing rain and/or refreezing of melted snow make our roads, streets and sidewalks extremely treacherous for pedestrians, and vehicles. Icy conditions may force us to close, even if it appears that no other dangerous conditions exist.

The decision to close school is made by the superintendent and school board. Before this happens, we have talked to transportation agencies, the weather bureau, the highway district, law enforcement agencies, and school Personnel. Someone from the district will drive the roads and monitor information throughout the night and early morning hours. We confer by telephone early in the morning to reach a decision.

If school will be closed, we will communicate to local radio and television stations to spread the word. The Melba Social Media will also broadcast this information. We will keep everyone as up to date as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding School Closures.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grover  
Superintendent  
Melba School District  
208-495-1141