



**COLUMBIA SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
**LOL FEARON, SUPERINTENDENT**  
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Weather conditions or other circumstances can cause a delayed opening, early dismissal or closure of school. The Columbia School System offers parents two ways to receive weather-related information for Horace W. Porter School: SchoolMessenger (emergency notification system) messages and the media (television and radio).

All parents, including parents of high school students, will receive a SchoolMessenger notification of weather-related messages between 5:30 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. on the day of the weather event. If you do not wish to receive SchoolMessenger weather-related messages, please contact Mrs. Nye, Horace W. Porter School Secretary, at 860-228-9493 x161.

School delays/closures for Horace W. Porter School are also announced through the media. When school is delayed, closed early or cancelled, the media outlets below will announce the information for “Columbia.”

- WILI (1400 AM, 98.3 FM)
- WTIC (1080 AM, 96.5 FM)
- WFSB (Channel 3)
- NBC (Channel 30)
- FOX (Channel 61)

**Preschool:**

If there is a 90-minute delay, the preschool program morning class will be from 9:50 A.M. to 12:00 noon and the afternoon class will be from 1:05 P.M. to 3:05 P.M. If there is weather related early dismissal, the morning class will have a regular day and there will be **no** afternoon preschool.

**Before School Care:**

Before school care at Horace W. Porter School will open at 9:00 a.m. on mornings of delayed openings.

**High Schools:**

Our designated high schools and the area magnet schools determine school delays and cancellations independently from Columbia. This is unique to Columbia. High school students and Porter students share bus transportation.

- **When school is delayed or cancelled for Porter students, all high school transportation is also delayed or cancelled.** For example, on a 90-minute delayed opening day for Porter School, high school transportation will run 90-minutes later than the regular pick-up time regardless of the start time for the respective high schools. This means that if a high school does not delay the start of classes on a day that Columbia delays school, high school students using bus transportation will arrive late to school.
- **If a high school has a delayed opening and Porter does not have a delayed opening, there will be no morning high school transportation.**
- **When school is dismissed early due to inclement weather for H. W. Porter, dismissal time is 12:30 p.m. and all afterschool activities will be cancelled.**
- **Parents of high school and magnet school students should monitor the media for early dismissal information for their student's district.**
- **Finally, if school is cancelled for Porter, all high school bus transportation is cancelled.** We base this decision on the fact that travel on Columbia's roads has been determined to be hazardous.

*It is important for parents of high school students to have a transportation plan for these possibilities.*

If you have any questions related to the information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to call 860-228-8590.

Sincerely,

Lol Fearon  
Superintendent