



**SPECIAL "COMET CONNECTIONS" UPDATE**  
**COLEMAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
*Academics, Arts, Athletics, Agriculture – Growing for  
the Future!*

**Information on How Coleman Schools Handles Sub-Zero Wind Chill Temperatures**  
**Updated Jan. 21, 2019**

How cold it feels on a winter day is a complex function of several factors. The most important factors are air temperature and wind speed. Extreme cold temperatures with strong winds are more dangerous than just low temperatures because strong winds drive down wind chill temperatures. However, as we all know, the effect of extremely cold wind chill is plain old discomfort; the air feeling colder than it really is, so to speak.

At -10, a 5 mph wind produces a wind chill reading of -22. Under those conditions, it only takes 15-30 minutes of exposure before it becomes a safety concern. There is no set policy on temperature, but as a rule of thumb, we have used an actual or wind chill reading of -20 to make the decision to close schools. Coleman Community Schools will be following this wind chill situation anytime there is a significant cold weather situation.

We know that parents will have a plan on how to best dress your children and limit the time your child would be exposed to the wind chill conditions should we have school. Please also be prepared for a school cancellation should that be necessary.

It is a difficult decision on these days, as cancelling school puts a hardship on many families for appropriate and safe supervision of their children. Our school buildings and transportation fleet are warm and safe, and yet, exposure at bus stops and for those children who walk to school can be dangerous if exposure is beyond the 15-minute recommended time. Driving children to school may also not be an option for some parents. **Student safety, whether school is open or closed, will require all of us communicating and working together.**

If at all possible, my goal is to notify families about school closures the night before so that plans may be made. Since temperature can be difficult to predict, it may be necessary to monitor the conditions in the area that morning and have a decision made between 5-5:30 a.m. on the actual morning.

I hope that this information is helpful to understand Monday's decision and just in case we see those temperatures in the future. Here is a helpful link for more cold weather information:

[http://www.weather.gov/media/dtx/briefing/DTX\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/media/dtx/briefing/DTX_Briefing.pdf)

Stay Warm,

Jennifer McCormack, Superintendent