

How we COMMUNICATE with families

Lake Stevens School District uses a wide variety of communication tools to engage its families. Individual schools and teachers may use other communication channels that are not reflected here.

SKYWARD & FAMILY ACCESS

- Emails from district office, principals and teachers
- Absences
- Grades
- Class schedules
- Fines and fees

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook @lakestevensschools

Twitter @lssd

Instagram @lakestevensschools

DISTRICT MOBILE APP

Our app gives families, staff, student and the community a more convenient way to stay informed about what's happening in our schools. The free app gives you access to news, social media feeds—no social media accounts needed—district and school calendars, notifications, staff contact information and more. You can customize the app so you receive information specific to your student's school. Free download from the App Store or Google Play under "Lake Stevens School District".

WEBSITES & ELECTRONIC CALENDARS

The district and each school maintain a website with announcements, calendars, photos and more.

PEACHJAR

District, school and community event flyers are emailed to families. No login is necessary. You can also view flyers from the home page of each school's website and on the district mobile app.

ONECALL NOW

Automated phone calls for absences, school events, unpaid meal balances and emergencies.

PUBLICATIONS

E-NEWS

Monthly electronic newsletter emailed to all families.

LAKE SCHOOLS

Lake Schools is published four times each school year and is mailed to all residents living within our district boundaries.

DISTRICT CALENDAR & PARENT HANDBOOK

The district wall calendar and parent handbook is mailed to all families each August and given to new students as they enroll.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

Please verify that your child's school has accurate contact information, including: phone numbers, email addresses, home address and emergency contacts.

How will I know if there's an emergency or incident at my child's school?

During an emergency, our first priority is to protect our students and staff. When we share information, our goal is to ensure that it's timely and accurate. We oftentimes are not at liberty to share information from law enforcement, so we communicate what we can, when we can. We urge our families and community to look for an official message from the district through our official communication channels and to avoid sharing unofficial information.

- Parents will receive an automated phone call and email alerting them about the emergency.
- They will also receive a second automated phone call and email once the emergency situation has ended.
- Information will also be shared through the district's mobile app, website and social media channels, as appropriate.

What should parents do in the event of an emergency?

- Remain calm.
- As difficult as it may be don't call or go to the school. This keeps phone lines open and reduces traffic for first responders.
- Avoid contacting your child during an emergency. Depending on the situation, this can further compromise their safety, overload cell systems, hamper the ability of first responders and cause delays in releasing official, accurate information. If your child contacts you, please remind him or her to remain calm and follow the directions of school staff.

What should parents do after an emergency?

- Be patient and wait for information.
- If an off-site family reunification is necessary, please remember that emergency pickup procedures are different than routine pick up procedures. You will need to bring your photo identification to the designated reunification site.
- Only approved adults with valid photo identification will be allowed to pick up students from the reunification location.

SCHOOL DELAYS & CLOSURES

Be prepared for winter weather

When winter weather hits, our top priority is the safety of students and staff. We also recognize that school delays and closures disrupt family schedules and the school year may have to be extended. Our district's geography is taken into account when the decision is made. One part of our area may be clear while other areas are struggling with snow or ice. It is not possible to close some schools in the district while leaving other schools open.

How the decision to close schools is made

To help make the best possible decision, weather forecasts are monitored throughout the process.



District staff members drive the roads beginning at 3 a.m. checking schools and routes that are frequently impacted and report road conditions to the superintendent by 5 a.m. A decision and announcement is made as quickly as possible. This process sometimes changes based on weather conditions.

Delay and closure options:

- Schools start on time (no message will be shared).
- Schools start on time with limited bus service or buses on snow routes. Afternoon bus service will also be on snow routes.
- Schools start two hours late (no a.m. preschool, no out-of-district transportation, no morning Sno-Isle bus).
- Schools are closed (no after school activities, athletics or facility use).

Options are subject to change depending on weather conditions.

Information is shared using these communication channels:

- FlashAlert, www.flashalert.net. Local TV, radio and newspapers pull information from FlashAlert. You can subscribe to receive text and email alerts from FlashAlert.
- Social media
- District mobile app
- Email to families
- District website

We do not use our automated calling system for school delays and closures due to weather.

If no messages are posted, schools are open and operating on normal schedules.

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