

# SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION & WINTER WEATHER:

## KEEPING SAFETY FIRST

Winter brings increased activity and careful planning in the Ogden Transportation Department. Our top priority is always the safety of our students and staff. Here's how we prepare and make decisions during winter weather.

### Preparing for Winter Conditions

- We make sure all buses are ready to operate in extreme cold and snowy conditions.
- Weather conditions are monitored constantly so we can prepare ahead of time.
- Drivers and transportation staff regularly discuss forecasts and potential plans during daily driver report sessions after routes.

### When Weather Develops Overnight or Early Morning

- The Transportation Director checks bus routes early in the morning to see actual road conditions throughout the district.
- Iowa 511 is reviewed for current road and travel conditions.
- We communicate with transportation directors in surrounding districts to compare conditions and planning.
- We consult with Superintendent Mr. Heyer to discuss conditions and decisions being made by other districts.
- Our goal is to communicate a plan to families by 6:00 a.m. whenever possible.

### When Weather Changes During the School Day

- We monitor multiple weather forecasts, paying close attention to the timing and severity of the storm.
- We communicate with nearby districts—especially those in the path of the incoming weather—to understand what they are experiencing in real time.
- We coordinate with county and state officials to learn where and when snowplows will be operating.
- Based on all information, we determine whether it is safest to dismiss students early or remain at school until conditions improve. Our goal is to avoid sending students out during the worst part of a storm.

### Safety Always Comes First

We appreciate the efforts of neighboring districts, including Pocahontas Area Schools, who demonstrated strong decision-making on December 18 to keep students and staff safe.

Our commitment is simple: to get students to and from school as safely as possible, every day, in all weather conditions. Thank you for your patience, trust, and support as we work together to keep safety first during winter weather.

**Denny Good - Ogden Transportation Director**

**Safety is everyone's responsibility.**

