School Closure & Delayed Start Considerations

The decision to delay or cancel school is based on the safety of students and staff. The decision is complicated, as it involves numerous factors: input from town departments, recommendations from the bus companies, and the highly unpredictable New England weather. Every storm presents unique challenges, and all of the factors identified below must be taken into account to make the safest decision.

- **Multiple Forecasts**
  - State and regional impact of storm
  - Timing of storm
  - Amount/type of precipitation (snow, sleet, freezing rain, wind, etc.)

- **Coordination with Town Departments (DPW, Police)**
  - Conditions of roads (main roads, secondary roads, significant hill areas)
  - Condition of sidewalks, lots, school facilities
  - Condition of school buildings (electricity, heat, flooding)

- **Coordination with Transportation Companies**
  - Ability of transportation company to safely pick up students
  - Ability of special education vans to safely pick up students

- **Additional District Considerations**
  - Status of conditions and forecast
  - Safety and ability of staff to travel to and from work
  - Supt. calls area districts for information/thinking relative to conditions/timing
  - Ability to provide heat/lunches at schools

In addition to the factors listed above, we must also consider that Grafton covers over 23 square miles and has over 105 miles of main and secondary roads that must be cleared for vehicles to travel safely. Our four tiers of transportation are all interconnected. Therefore, if the roads are not cleared in time for the first tier of buses to pick up students by 6:30 AM then we cannot run the other routes on time. With that said, we recognize that cancelling and/or delaying school is a hardship for families. As a result, we do our best to utilize the information we are given to make the best decision possible as early as possible.

(Materials utilized/modified from the following school districts: Cherry Creek School District CO, Jordan Public Schools UT, Somerville Public Schools MA, Spokane Public Schools WA)