

Editorial

Weather Welfare

Bad road conditions impair inexperienced teenagers so delays need to be used thoughtfully to avoid accidents

Education is regarded extremely highly all around the United States, so delays and cancellations interfering with school are avoided as much as possible. Even with unsafe weather conditions, school often still operates. Safety should be significantly more prominent when deciding if the road conditions are safe and any uncertainty on the matter should constitute in at least a two-hour delay.

Our Stance

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On average, busses transport 30-40 students at a time. Now imagine a bus like this functioning in the snow or fog. Maybe the fog makes a semi-driver notice a red light when they're already too late to slow down and the bus is crossing the intersection. This could even happen in normal conditions, so gambling with the weather is a tragedy waiting to strike.

Many HNHS students have experienced trouble with the weather on the way to school. When the fog was really heavy on Sept. 31, junior Shannon Stevens accelerated after stopping at a four-way stop. Through the fog, she was unable to see a college student crossing the road not far ahead.

"I only noticed him when he was right in front of me, so I had to hit my brakes really quickly. Luckily I was only going 15 mph," Stevens said.

Dangerous weather conditions are difficult enough for an experienced driver. High school students are practically all recently-licensed drivers, so making students come to school in poor conditions is an even bigger risk to wager with. Experience is essential in safe driving and this should most definitely be considered when delays and cancellations are being contemplated.

Also, many students come to school between 7-7:30 am. The roads are checked for safety around 5 a.m. and the call is made before six, seeing as busses start picking students up as early as 6:15. Instances have occurred in winter when the snow was predicted to come in thick and heavy right before seven, but because the roads were safe



two-hours earlier, no precautionary delay was issued. These are the mornings when the route to school is laced with cars stranded in ditches and people pulled over from being rear-ended.

Junior Chloe Spencer was once in a car as a passenger when the snow had just started accumulating around 7 a.m. The driver was pulling forward at the green light and had to stop quickly when the light turned yellow.

"We slid a little bit, but the car behind us slid into us. If they were coming any faster, we could have been bumped into the middle of the intersection," Spencer said.

Honestly, the decision on delays often seems to be taken too lightly or seems to focus more on the importance of education rather than safety. Shorter classes won't kill anyone but car accidents will.