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[www.VistaAutismServices.org](http://www.VistaAutismServices.org)

December 9, 2020

Dear Vista Parents/Guardians:

With winter weather right around the corner, we want to provide, as a refresher, information and guidance regarding transportation when a student's home school district delays opening, closes or sends students home early. The Vista School serves students from 42 different school districts in 8 Central Pennsylvania counties. We have compiled some FAQs related to this issue:

- **How does Vista announce information regarding weather-related schedule changes?**  
Vista independently makes decisions about delays, closures and early dismissals for the school. These decisions are communicated out to our staff and families via the One-Call System and are also announced on most of the local radio and television stations. **If you are unsure that Vista has your most up to date email address, cell phone number, or home number, please email Rebecca Chernich at [Rebecca.chernich@vistaautismservices.org](mailto:Rebecca.chernich@vistaautismservices.org) with this updated contact information. There is a text option available to receive alerts via text from our One-Call System. Please text the word "Alert" to 22300 to begin receiving text notifications.**
- **Who is responsible for my student's transportation needs during inclement weather?**  
Vista has a very limited role with respect to student transportation services. Your home school district is solely responsible for those services, and many of them enter into contracts with outside vendors to provide regular service.
- **How do I know which delay, early dismissal, or closing I should follow?**  
Always follow the most severe delay or closure between Vista and your district. For example, your district may have a 2hr delay, but Vista is closed. In this scenario, Vista is closed and your child will not have school. If your home school district is dismissing at 12pm and Vista is dismissing at 1pm transportation will follow your home school district's 12pm dismissal unless contacted otherwise by the district or transportation provider.
- **Can I transport my child if Vista is open but my district is closed?**  
Yes. Please make this decision with the safety of roads in your area taken into consideration. If you will be transporting your child, please call ahead so we know they will be coming to school. Remember you will also have to transport your child home as your district is not providing transportation in this scenario.
- **When will Vista make-up a day that was missed for inclement weather?**  
Make -up days are built into our school calendar and will be used in the numbered sequence noted beneath each month. Further clarification can be found on the school calendar (included in this correspondence). For example, if we had a closure next week, we would then be in session on January 18, 2021 (make-up day #1).
- **What happens if I have an IEP or team meeting scheduled on the day of a delay, early dismissal or cancellation?**  
If Vista has a 2-hour delay or "Modified Schedule", any morning IEP meeting is cancelled and will be rescheduled. Afternoon IEP meetings would continue as scheduled. If Vista is closed, the IEP meeting is cancelled and will be rescheduled. If Vista is having an early dismissal, someone will be in contact with you regarding the status of your meeting (based on the timing of the early dismissal).
- **With the school now instructing in distance learning formats, would an inclement weather day of closure allow instruction to shift to distance learning to avoid making up a 'snow day'?**  
The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) allows only public school entities to apply for 'flexible instruction days' that can be used in these types of situations. The Vista School has reached out to PDE for clarification and confirmed that we as a Licensed Private Academic School/Approved Private School are not eligible to apply. Therefore, we are not permitted to shift to distance learning on days of inclement weather closure if we are not already on a campus-wide closure. Should this change, we will communicate accordingly. If Vista sees the need to convert to a campus-wide distance-learning model for a period of time, inclement weather days will not be announced and distance instruction would proceed as normal during inclement weather.

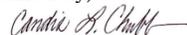
- **What will happen to instructional hours for the year when we utilize a two hour delay?**  
The Vista School normally well exceeds the required instructional hours required from PDE. However, this year we did extensive adjustments to our school calendar due to COVID-19. This will require us to track total hours lost with any delays due to inclement weather and **potentially** 'add' hours back into the school calendar via the utilization of at least some part or all of a 'make up day'. We would do this in the instance that our total amount of instructional hours are not meeting the required amount for the school year as indicated by PDE. Should this expectation change, we will communicate accordingly.
- **The Vista School is currently operating on Contingency Half Days as stipulated in our Health and Safety Plan. How will AM/PM student sessions and staff hours be impacted on an inclement weather delay day?**  
The Vista School needs to make sure first and foremost that our campus is safe for staff and students to travel on. This was taken into account while also balancing the needs related to health and safety with the global pandemic. Therefore, while the school is operating under Contingency Half Days, we will utilize "**Modified Schedule**" instead of "Two Hour Delays." Our "**Modified Schedule**" will be as follows:
  - **AM Session: 10:30am-12:30pm**
  - **PM Session: 1:30pm-3:30pm**
  - **School/EIBS staff report at 9:30 unless otherwise directed**

Should the school be operating under a 'full day' session (ie: be back to the normal hours of 9-3 for all students), we would revert back to following our standard 'two-hour delay'. This would have staff reporting at 9:30 and students reporting at 11:00.

- **What will happen if The Vista School is operating on Contingency Half Days as stipulated in our Health and Safety Plan and we experience a need for an early dismissal?**  
The Vista School will always base our student and staff attendance on the safety of the road conditions in our area. If we were to have started the day in session and the weather requires us to dismiss early, we will alert families, LEA's, and transportation companies as soon as possible. We generally (outside of emergency situations) provide at least 1.5 hours notice before an early dismissal to allow for our counties of farthest distance to get to our campus. We will keep to this standard (and provide even more notice when possible) and may have situations (depending on the weather and road conditions at hand) in which we dismiss early and cancel the PM session. In these situations, just as in modified schedule and/or two hour delay situations, we will track hours to determine if any make up instructional days will be required.
- **What should I expect from any Behavior Technician that typically provides services in my home during inclement weather?**
  - **In the event of a two hour delay or Modified Schedule:**
    - If we are on Contingency half days and a BT comes to your home for the AM, you should expect the session to be modified to approximately 11:00-time of transportation pick up to travel to The Vista School.
    - If you have a BT that comes to your home in the PM, staff will report between 1:30-2:00 and stay until their normal end of session time.
    - If we are on a full day schedule and utilize Vista's ABA services, ABA home services will communicate any adjustments to the schedule independent of the school.
  - **In the event of an early dismissal:**
    - If we are on Contingency half days and a BT comes to your home for the AM, you should expect the session to continue as normally scheduled.
    - If you have a BT that comes to your home in the PM, you should expect the session to be cancelled.
    - If we are on a full day schedule and utilize Vista's ABA services, ABA home services will communicate any adjustments to the schedule independent of the school.
  - **In the event of a school closure for the day:**
    - If we are on Contingency half days, any BT service to the home for asynchronous lesson support will be cancelled for the day.
    - If we are on a full day schedule and utilize Vista's ABA services, ABA home services will communicate any adjustments to the schedule independent of the school.
  - **In the event of inclement weather during campus wide distance learning**
    - If you have a BT, or other Vista staff member, that provides services to your child in the home or community, and there is severe inclement weather in your area, the assigned staff member will communicate with the parent and their supervisor if there is a need to cancel or adjust their session time.

We appreciate your kind attention to these helpful tips. Student safety remains our number one priority, especially when winter weather strikes.

Sincerely,



Candis L. Chubb M.Ed.  
Executive Director of Educational Programs

The Vista School  
Academic and EIBS Calendar  
2020-2021 School Year

	No School
	In-Service/No Students
	Marking Period End Date
	Staff Vacation Restrictions
	Student Hall Days

205 Total student days  
181 RSY days - 24 ESY days  
**AUGUST 2020**  
Student Days: 3

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**SEPTEMBER 2020**  
Student Days: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**OCTOBER 2020**  
Student Days: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**NOVEMBER 2020**  
Student Days: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**DECEMBER 2020**  
Student Days: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**JANUARY 2021**  
Student Days: 18

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**August**  
17-21: No School- EIBS Break Week  
24-26: All Staff In Service  
27: First Student Day; Start of RSY

**September**  
7: No School; Labor Day  
18: Back to School Day; No Students; All Staff In Service

**October**  
9: All Staff In Service  
12: No School; Columbus Day

**November**  
4: End of Quarter 1- Last Student half day  
25-30: No School; Thanksgiving Break

**December**  
23-31: No School; Winter Break  
28- Jan. 1: Break Week

**January**  
1: No School; New Year's Day  
15: All Staff In Service  
18: No School; MLK Jr Day  
25: End of Quarter 2

**February**  
11-12: All Staff In Service  
15: No School; President's Day

**March**  
29-31: No School; Break Week

**April**  
1-5: No School; Break Week  
12: End of Quarter 3  
30: All Staff In Service

**May**  
28: All Staff In Service  
31: No School; Memorial Day

**June**  
17: Last Student Day RSY; 12:00PM Student Dismissal; Staff Full Day; Graduation at 12:30pm  
17: End of Quarter 4  
18: All Staff In Service  
21-30: No School- Break Week

**July**  
1-2: No School- Break Week  
5: First Student Day; Start of ESY  
9,14,23,30: No School

**August**  
6: No School  
12: Last Student Day ESY; 12:00PM Student Dismissal; Staff Full Day  
13: All Staff In Service  
16-20: No School - Break Week

**FEBRUARY 2021**  
Student Days: 17

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**MARCH 2021**  
Student Days: 20

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**APRIL 2021**  
Student Days: 18

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**MAY 2021**  
Student Days: 19

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**JUNE 2021**  
Student Days: 13

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**JULY 2021**  
Student Days: 16

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**AUGUST 2021**  
Student Days: 8

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21						