

Fort Belvoir Child, Youth and School Services (CYSS) is working hard to support families during emergency weather conditions and at the same time meet the intent of the Fort Belvoir Regulation 115-1, Climatic, Hydrological and Topographic Services Routine and Hazardous Weather Conditions. Among many points this regulation makes, key are that Fort Belvoir will not close its gates due to inclement weather, but may be available to only emergency essential personnel dependent upon the weather emergency and that the Garrison Commander will make decisions for Fort Belvoir's operational status based on road and power conditions on post and the capability to maintain acceptable status, off post road and power conditions, weather forecasts, and any Office of Personnel announcements.

The many varied decisions for Fort Belvoir's operational status include (but are not limited to) opening on time, delayed opening, early closure, open with unscheduled leave, or open for emergency essential only. Since both the weather conditions and the decisions of the Garrison Commander apply to CYSS staff members as part of the installation, CYSS operations may be interrupted during weather emergencies.

It is important to understand that safety is a top consideration for these types of situations and CYSS has built their policy with that in mind. Safe road conditions present stress and driving problems for both families and staff. For these reason, CYSS staff *may* use unscheduled leave when offered, programs *may* open on a 2 hour delay or close early when offered and programs *may* close when access to the installation is limited to emergency essential only.

CYSS has implemented several policies to help assist families when weather prevents normal operations. First, designated emergency essential families will have first priority for care both when our service ability is altered and when we close. The process for this emergency essential designation is outlined in Fort Belvoir Regulation 115-1 and CYSS is readjusting their current policy and moving to this standard and utilizing the sample memorandums. This means that all patrons, including active duty sole and dual military, requesting emergency essential status must either be designated as such in their position descriptions and/or be designated via command memorandum. Once verified, CYSS will provide these patrons with first priority for care on days when services are limited and Family Child Care (FCC) Provider care on days when the CDCs are closed. For other families, we will continue provide services as staff arrives and space becomes available. We will also continue to offer discount points for families who keep their children home on these days. These discount points are available through our parent volunteer program called, Why I'm Needed (WIN), and our facility front desks have the paperwork available for patrons to claim these discount points on such days. Families can earn 3 discount points on these days and an accumulation of 10 WIN points earns that patron a 10% childcare discount for one month. There are a variety of other WIN point opportunities for parents to help them earn the additional points necessary for the discount.

We will update our facility phone message on these days as to our status and space availability and Fort Belvoir Public Affairs will post information on the 703-805-3030 line, global email, Belvoir AM 1610 Alert Radio Station, Fort Belvoir Facebook and Twitter, Fort Belvoir web page and the civilian broadcast media.