Pickens schools to dismiss early for Clemson game

BY GREG OLIVER
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EASLEY — Clemson's first Thursday night home football game since 2002 will result in all Pickens County students having a shorter-than-usual school day Nov. 14.

The School District of Pickens County announced this week that schools will dismiss early because of anticipated traffic issues from the Clemson-Georgia Tech football game that evening. School District spokesman John Eby said elementary schools will dismiss at 1 p.m. and high schools will dismiss at 2 p.m.

"We anticipate that traffic in the Clemson area and around U.S. 123 in Easley would make it impossible for buses to take students home in a reasonable amount of time unless school is dismissed early," Eby said. "We also have concerns about the safety of student drivers in the heavy traffic."

Afternoon 4K classes will also be cancelled, while morning 4K classes will proceed as planned. Eby said schools in the district may still continue after-school activities, such as athletic practices, but added that such decisions would be at the discretion of the principal at each school.

According to Eby, the district made its decision after consulting with Clemson University, the South Carolina Highway Patrol and local law enforcement authorities. All parties involved made the determination that traffic for the game would increase sharply in the early afternoon.

However, Eby added that school district employees would still be required to work a full day.

The Clemson-Georgia Tech game at Memorial Stadium will take place at 7:30 p.m. and be televised by ESPN.



FILE

Clemson's Thursday night home game versus Georgia Tech Nov. 14 may be inconvenient for fans, but it suits Pickens County students just fine. On that day, schools will dismiss students early in an effort to alleviate additional traffic congestion resulting from the weeknight game.

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