

## **BACKGROUND**

The Board believes that it is important for schools to remain open and in operation when at all possible. Closures of schools due to inclement weather are necessitated only when the safety and well-being of students and staff are threatened.

Parents/guardians have the responsibility of determining whether to send their student(s) to school on days when weather conditions are a factor.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **1. Schools**

- 1.1. Schools may be closed due to inclement weather if the safety of students and staff are at risk.
- 1.2. The decision to close schools due to inclement weather requires careful deliberation and is based on a thorough analysis of all relevant factors, including but not limited to:
  - 1.2.1. Current and forecasted temperature and wind chill;
  - 1.2.2. Information on road conditions from Alberta Transportation;
  - 1.2.3. Amount of snow and ice;
  - 1.2.4. Geographical location in the division; and
  - 1.2.5. School building constructions.
- 1.3. The decision to close one or more schools, will be made by 5:30 a.m. by the Superintendent or designate after consultation with designated Principals and Trustees.
- 1.4. Once students are being conveyed to school, the school will not close until regular dismissal time.

### **2. School Bus Transportation**

- 2.1. School bus routes may be cancelled or adjusted due to inclement weather if the safety of students is at risk.
- 2.2. School buses do not typically run on mornings when the temperature in an area is at or lower than -40 degrees Celsius without the wind chill.
- 2.3. When weather conditions are so inclement, or road conditions so hazardous, as to constitute a risk to the students being transported, a bus route or routes may be cancelled by the Superintendent or designate.
- 2.4. The cancellation of school bus transportation does not necessarily mean that schools are closed.

### **3. Communication**

- 3.1. When schools are closed and/or buses are cancelled due to the above conditions, families and media will be informed by 6 a.m.
- 3.2. Any school closure and/or bus route cancellation will be available by 6 a.m. on the division's website or on the division's bus status app.



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- 3.3. Each school must communicate their emergency contingency plan related to inclement weather, with students, staff and parents/guardians on an annual basis.

### **Legal Reference:**

- Section 11,33,52,53,60,196,197,222 Education Act