

Administrative Procedure 131

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Background

The Division is concerned about the safe transport of students to and from school. In the event of inclement weather or hazardous road conditions, school bus transportation may be cancelled prior to school opening; early school bus dismissal from schools may occur during school hours; and/or during severe weather advisory conditions, a school or schools may be closed prior to and/or after schools are opened as per the following procedures.

Procedures

1. "Inclement weather" is defined as cold, winds causing extreme chill conditions and/or low visibility or other weather conditions which would prevent the safe transit of students to or from school.
2. Because of the size of the Division, it is recognized that conditions may vary from community to community, and even within the community, at any given time.
3. The criteria for transportation closure or enhancement for this Division are that buses on a particular route(s) in any community or in some cases across the whole Division will not run in mornings when:
 - 3.1 The temperature is -40° C or colder;
 - 3.2 In cases of temperatures warmer than -40° C if the wind chill factor is -40° C or greater (as per attached chart – click on the link)
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=5FBF816A-1#table1>
or <http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=0F42F92D-1>
 - 3.3 Road conditions are such, on particular routes, that the probability is significant that a particular bus(es) cannot in reasonable safety complete the route.
4. The decision for cancellation of transportation services will rest with the Principal in consultation with bus drivers/contractors.
 - 4.1 If a decision to close transportation services is made for the whole community, the Principal shall advise, before 6:30 a.m., the Director of Transportation and Facilities or designate who will be responsible for coordinating announcements of closure(s) for a particular community or several communities or the whole Division by contacting Radio 1310 CHLW (645-4425) and 790 CFCW (780-490-2490).
 - 4.1.1 The Director of Transportation and Facilities or designate shall ensure that all cancellations are updated on the Division website.
 - 4.2 Should a decision be made to cancel only a small number of routes, the Principal and the bus driver(s)/contractor(s) will make local arrangements for advising parents
St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1 September 2009
Administrative Procedures Manual Revised: April 13, 2010
of cancellation(s). The Principal shall advise the Director of Transportation and Facilities of such cancellations forthwith.
 - 4.3 In communities where there is more than one Principal, consultation is expected to occur and one (1) will be appointed as spokesperson.
 - 4.3.1 C20 – Special transportation bus route shall be included in rural bus cancellation for Town of St. Paul schools.
5. The same procedures as in Section 4 above shall apply in cases where a decision is made to enhance afternoon dismissal be it for the whole school or for specific routes.
6. Even if buses do not run, schools shall remain open and staff members are to report to their school on that day.
7. In extreme hazardous conditions (e.g. imminent tornado strikes, extremely severe storm warnings, etc.) a decision to close a school or schools will be made by the Superintendent or designate following proper consultation.

Note: One (1) thermometer in each community will be designated as "the official" thermometer.