

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Belief

The Division is responsible for ensuring that each of its students is provided with an education; therefore, schools shall remain open to students during the times and dates established by the Board.

Guidelines

1. Bus services may be suspended due to adverse road or weather conditions; schools will remain open and all staff members are expected to report to work.
2. Bus route suspension will not always be made on a system-wide basis due to the large geographic area of the Division.
3. A bus route suspended in the morning is also suspended in the afternoon, regardless of improved weather or road conditions.
4. Parents are not required to send their children to school if, in their judgment, weather or road conditions are detrimental to the safety or well-being of their children.
5. Parents who have brought their children to school on days when school bus services are suspended will be responsible for picking up their children.
6. Any of the following factors, or combinations of factors, shall serve as guidelines for considering the suspension of bus services:
 - 6.1. Temperature of -40 degrees celsius with or without a wind chill factor as reported by the weather office for the area in question;
 - 6.2. Visibility of less than 30 meters;
 - 6.3. Road closures by the R.C.M.P, municipal or other local road officials.
7. On scheduled Diploma Examination dates, students who arrive at school shall write the examination.

Procedures

8. The decision to suspend a bus route will be determined at 6:00 a.m. by the school bus driver in consultation with the Transportation Manager.
9. A driver who decides to suspend bus service to students due to weather or road conditions shall contact the Transportation Manager no later than 6:00 a.m., and shall make every reasonable effort to contact all parents of students transported on his/her route.
10. The Transportation Manager shall notify the school principal via email regarding the suspension of the bus service.

11. Once a decision is made to suspend a bus route, or all bus routes, due to road or weather conditions, the Transportation Manager shall post the bus route suspensions on the Division website at www.wrps11.ca by 7:00 a.m.
12. Normally busses will not run early if inclement weather conditions develop during the day. Students will remain at the school until the end of the day, unless picked up by their parents.
 - 12.1. If the Transportation Manager decides to run all busses early, the Manager will contact all operators to begin their routes early;
 - 12.2. The Transportation Manager shall notify principals who will make every effort to contact the parents regarding early bus delivery of students;
 - 12.3. Bus operators shall ensure that students have accessed their residence prior to continuing on their route; and
 - 12.4. Schools shall remain open to students whose parents or older siblings are not home, until such time as alternate housing arrangement can be made.
13. A driver may make the decision to operate their bus early due to deteriorating weather or road conditions. The driver shall contact the Transportation Manager and the school principal. The principal shall make every reasonable effort to contact all parents of students transported on that route. Schools shall remain open to students whose parents or older siblings cannot be contacted, until such time as alternate housing or transportation arrangements can be made.
14. If a driver encounters impassible roads and is not able to complete the route, he/she shall immediately:
 - 14.1. Advise the Transportation Manager, who will immediately call the school.
 - 14.2. The school will make every effort to notify the parents of the students on that route; and
 - 14.3. The driver shall deliver those students on the bus back to their residence and advise the Transportation Manager of the safe return of those students.
15. A check-in process will be utilized during periods of inclement weather to monitor the completion of each bus route and initiate follow-up action if a bus is overdue.
16. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure:
 - 15.1 That their children are suitably dressed for coping with weather conditions.
 - 15.2 Arrangements have been made for alternate shelter for their child(ren) if no one is home