

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Policy Name INCLEMENT WEATHER

533

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POLICY

From time to time in our northern communities, inclement weather presents difficulties for students and employees in getting to school or work. When these difficulties occur, everyone has certain responsibilities.

1.0 Parents / Students

Parents have the primary responsibility for determining the safety of sending children to school. The Board does not assume responsibility for either the roads or weather, and hence cannot assume responsibility for determining when it is safe for children to travel to school. From time to time, in the event of particularly inclement weather, when town buses are not running, the principal or designate shall advise the parents. ***For the safety of students, the schools shall remain open.***

2.0 Principals

In consultation with the East of Thunder Bay Transportation Consortium (ETBTC) Coordinator and the bus operator(s), the principal or designate, and the other coterminous board principals in the community, at the earliest possible time, but no later than 7:00 a.m., will determine if it is safe for buses to travel. The principal or designate will advise the Superintendent of Education, staff, students and the community of the bussing situation.

2.1 If students are not yet in attendance:

- a) advise teaching staff and institute predetermined procedure to advise students and parents of school situation (i.e., radio media release, telephoning from class lists);
- b) ensure that as many staff members as possible assist with redirecting any students already at the school or not reached through the telephone campaign;

2.2 If students are already in attendance:

- a) inform the teaching staff who in turn advise students based on the school's emergency predetermined procedures as approved by Director;
- b) institute procedures to advise parents if other than usual news media reports are required;
- c) ensure with cooperation of staff, arrangements to cover younger students where no one is present to receive the students at their homes.

3.0 Employees

Each employee has a responsibility to assess the situation and determine if it is safe to travel to work, and assume their duties **for the full day**. The Board **does not expect, nor does it encourage** employees to travel in unsafe conditions. However, if an employee chooses not to report for work, then this absence, as in the case of all absences, must be covered under the appropriate Collective Agreement, and their leave will be recorded and charged in conformance with the appropriate section of said Collective Agreement. **The schools shall however, remain open.**