

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Policy Name INCLEMENT WEATHER

533

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May 27, 2014
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Review Prior To: **December 2025**
~~December 2019~~

POLICY

The safety of students and staff is always of paramount concern.

From time to time in our northern communities, inclement weather presents difficulties for students and employees in getting to school or work. Inclement weather means the existence of extreme climatic conditions (i.e. heavy rain, hail, snow, high winds, extreme cold, etc.) that may present unsafe travel conditions (road conditions, etc.).

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. In inclement weather, 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, During in the event of particularly inclement weather, the Principal or designate shall advise parents 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 East of Thunder Bay Transportation Consortia (ETBTC)

The area school bus operators, in conjunction with the East of Thunder Bay Transportation Coordinator, may cancel student transportation services (by route, by area or by entire jurisdiction) after consultation with:

- Environment Canada
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Area school principals, if required.

The Coordinator will communicate the decision in the following manner:

- Board of Directors of the Consortium
- School Board Directors of Education
- Local radio stations (CFNO, CBC English and French)
- Consortium website update - www.etbtc.on.ca

When buses are cancelled before the morning runs, they will be cancelled for the entire day.

3.0 Principals

The Principal will be notified by the East of Thunder Bay Transportation Consortium Coordinator,

~~The principal or designate, East of Thunder Bay Transportation Consortium and the bus operator, and the other coterminous board principals in the community, at the earliest possible time, generally between 6:00 am and 6:30 am, but no later than 7:30 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. Ongoing, clear, informed communication must be ensured by the school principal.

~~2.1~~ 3.1 If students are not yet in attendance, the principal or designate will:

- 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, School Messenger);
- b) ~~ensure that as many staff members as possible assist with redirecting any students already at the school or whose parents/guardians have not been reached directly through the telephone campaign;~~

~~2.2~~ 3.2 If students are already in attendance, the principal or designate will:

- 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 4.0 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.~~

4.0 5.0 Cancellation of Classes/School Closure

In rare occasions, the Director of Education (in consultation with the Board Chair) may cancel classes for students (schools remain open) or close schools for a temporary period due to inclement weather or transportation failures (as per the Education Act (R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2, s. 19). To ensure consistency for transportation, the decision to close a school is done in consultation with the Directors of Education for other affected School Boards.

Where a school is closed by the Director of Education, employees (not including custodial staff) are required to attend a work location or alternate location determined by the Director of Education in consultation with members of Senior Administration. Consideration will be given to safety, undue hardship and/or reasonableness of the assignment. When an employee reports to an alternative work location, they are under the authority of the Principal and/or Supervisor of that school or facility for their normal hours of duty.