

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE OR INCLEMENT WEATHER AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

### **Background**

Because of the geographic size of the Good Spirit School Division, the Board of Education believes that providing local discretion in dealing with weather conditions is both prudent and appropriate.

The Director of Education is authorized to discontinue transportation services in inclement weather.

### **Procedures**

1. Responsibility of the Transportation Manager
  - 1.1 The Transportation Manager or designate shall inform bus drivers when a disruption interferes with their regular duties due to situations such as, but not limited to, inclement weather, water main break, power outage or hold and secure.
  - 1.2 The Transportation Manager or designate shall receive, review, and maintain data regarding the disruption to bus services.
  - 1.3 The Transportation Manager, in consultation with the Director of Education, will approve the cancellation of division wide bus routes with the exception of urban transportation when the temperature is below -40°C or when the combination of temperature and wind chill reaches -45°C.
  - 1.4 The bus driver's remuneration shall not be reduced as a result of a decision not to operate a school bus due to inclement weather and/or hazardous conditions if the Transportation Manager is satisfied that such conditions did in fact exist.
  
2. Responsibility of Principals
  - 2.1 If conditions are not safe for buses to transport students home, the Principal or designate, in consultation with their school Superintendent and Transportation Manager, will inform parents of the situation. When necessary, the principal will arrange for the billeting of students.
    - 2.1.1. In the event of an extra-curricular group who is unable to return home the Principal is responsible for arranging accommodations and the Division will assume any costs incurred.
    - 2.1.2. In situations where severe weather conditions occur after students have been transported to school, the principal will ensure that school buses are not transporting students home until the regular dismissal time.

- 2.2 The principal is responsible to maintain a record of emergency contacts and billet families for all rural bus students at the time of registration.
- 2.3 The principal is to ensure that the school is accessible and operational when bus cancellations occur.
- 2.4 The principal, in consultation with the Director of Education, will determine if school buses provided for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will continue on days that transportation services are disrupted.
- 2.5 When local weather related issues arise, the principal will notify the Transportation Manager about deteriorating conditions.

### 3. Responsibility of Bus Drivers

- 3.1 Each bus driver is responsible for canceling a route to ensure the safety and well-being of their passengers. If the bus driver deems it unsafe to operate their bus, the driver shall:
  - 3.1.1 Notify parents in a timely fashion.
  - 3.1.2. Call the local radio station to relay the information that their bus will not run.
  - 3.1.3. Notify the Fleet Supervisor or designate.
- 3.2. The bus driver will notify the principal when cancelling bussing for co-curricular or extra-curricular activity.
- 3.3. In the event that a bus route is cancelled in the morning due to weather related conditions, the route is cancelled for the duration of the day.
- 3.4. Buses may be cancelled as a result of:
  - 3.4.1. Severely drifted or extremely icy roads;
  - 3.4.2. Limited visibility because of fog or blowing snow; or,
  - 3.4.3. Other environmental conditions are typically announced by Environment Canada through its telephone information services, web site or on a local radio station.